

Read before purchasing Craftsman accessories

Craftsman 109 vs. Sherline lathe: tailstock accessories

- We have had a few Craftsman customers purchasing Sherline accessories (vice versa): that does NOT really work. The accessories are not easily interchangeable.
- We have had Craftsman customers with retrofitted / rebuild tailstocks: read the notes below.

Both lathes (Craftsman / Sherline) use Morse taper #0 (MT0), MORE OR LESS. The taper angle is the same and obeys the ANSI standard. Therefore, one may call it MT0, but both lathes use reduced length taper. Now, one has two options to reduce a MT0.

Sherline: That's a MT0 cut off from the small diameter end. Therefore, you may use ANSI standard MT0 pieces, but would need a hack saw to cut off the small end diameter. Otherwise, the MT0 is too long and won't fit unless you extend the tailstock quill all the way. However, then you can basically not really use the tailstock. All Sherline lathes we have seen so far have the same size tailstock. We offer reduced length MT0 for Sherline lathes.

Original Craftsman: That's a MT0 cut off from the large diameter end. Quite a variety of different subversions of Craftsman 109 lathes exists, however. The one we have seen had a Morse #0 tailstock, more or less. It's a reduced length MT0 which is not that uncommon. However, they did cut the MT0 off at the large diameter end. That's rather odd and standard MT0 accessories don't really fit. So, we made some "Craftsman Taper" (Tailstock accessories) that did fit. Basically all of our accessories can also be made for a Craftsman. However, Craftsman is not that common anymore. Therefore, you need to contact us; these pieces are made to order. We have a few up for sale at eBay now and then and on this factory direct site, but ... just send us an e-mail. Nope, one cannot cut a MT0 off at the wider end using a hack saw or something since threaded ends, borings for cutting tools etc. are certainly at the wider end of a MT0. We offer MT0 specifically made for original Craftsman 109 lathes. *You probably can use a ANSI standard MT0 or Sherline MT0 on an original Craftsman lathe, but that taper would stick out of the tailstock quite a lot. Therefore, better get a Craftsman MT0 for your Craftsman lathe.*

Why are they doing this? Both lathes are really small benchtop jewelry type lathes. In order to miniaturize these, nonstandard ANSI MTs are used. Cutting MTs off at the wider end (Craftsman) indeed results in the smallest possible tailstock, so that's smart. What is not smart, in doing so, standard MT accessories cannot really be used for Craftsman.

Retrofitted / rebuild Craftsman: Apparently a few modified Craftsman 109 lathes are in circulation. Typically the tailstock quill was exchanged or reamed out. Therefore, these systems may obey the ANSI MT0 standard. That's great. Now, Sherline accessories should fit. However, what's not great, when pulling back the tailstock spindle the Sherline accessories will not pop out, they are too short. If you want to use Sherline accessories on a rebuild Craftsman then either stick a short aluminum tubing in the tailstock first, or drill and tap the small diameter end of the MT0 and insert a crew. Adjust screw length such that the MT0 will come out properly. If that really work or not depends on whether the retrofitting was done properly. Other option, we can also make a full length MT0 taper for you, contact us. If you have a fitting taper for your lathe then measure it. A full length MT0 should have a taper length of 2" + eventually a tang. That tang is often missing and not really required. An original Craftsman MT0 should be about 1" long (taper length) and has no tang. Probably 1% of our customers have had retrofitted Craftsman. Most systems appear to be original.

	Large diameter	Length
Original Craftsman	0.33	Typically 1.0"- 1.5"
Sherline	0.36	Typically 0.75" to 0.80"
ANSI standard	0.36	2"

Most important is the diameter and not the taper length. Unfortunately, the diameters are difficult to measure precisely. Measure the diameter just where the taper sticks out of your tailstock.

Summary: Sherline and Craftsman accessories are not interchangeable. The taper angle is the same and obeys the ANSI standard, but the diameters are not the same. Our pieces are made specifically for a given lathe (in it's original configuration) as specified. You can send pieces back for exchange or refund, but the shipping costs are up to you.