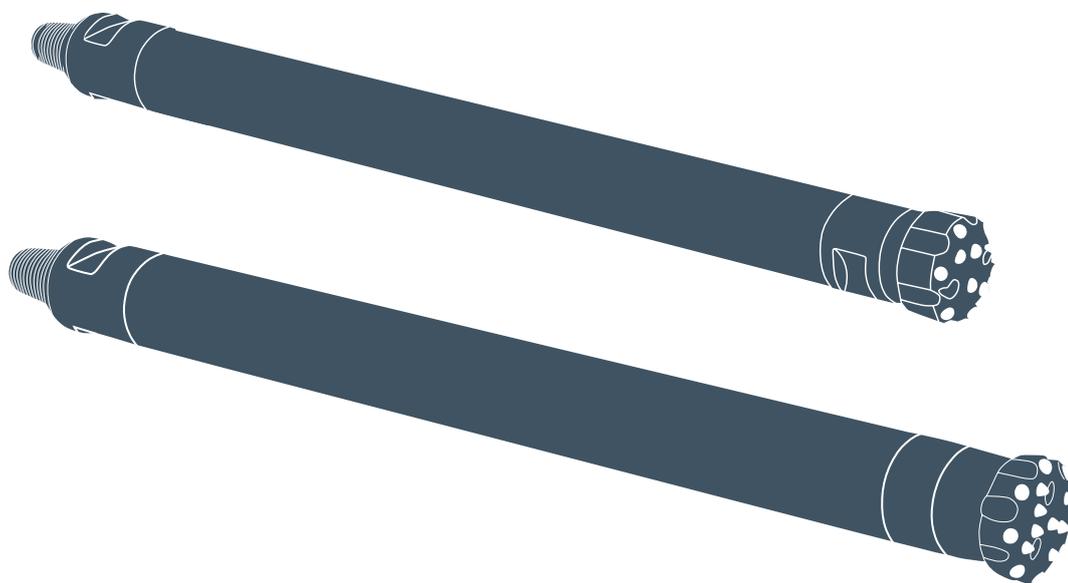


# Secoroc COP down-the-hole hammers

COP 32 / 32HD, COP 42  
Operator's instructions



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# Safety regulations

- Before starting, read these instructions carefully.
- Important safety information is given at various points in these instructions.
- Special attention must be paid to the safety information contained in frames and accompanied by a warning symbol (triangle) and a signal word, as shown below.

## DANGER

Indicates immediate hazards which WILL result in serious or fatal injury if the warning is not observed.

## WARNING

Indicates hazards or hazardous procedures which COULD result in injury or damage to equipment if the warning is not observed.

## CAUTION

Indicates hazards or hazardous procedures which COULD result in injury or damage to equipment if the warning is not observed.

- Read through the operator's instructions for both the drill rig and the DTH hammer thoroughly before putting the DTH hammer into service. Always follow the advice given in the instructions.
- Use only authorized parts. Any damage or malfunction caused by the use of unauthorized parts is not covered by Warranty or Product Liability.

*The following general safety rules must also be observed:*

- Make sure that all warning signs on the rig remain in place and are free from dirt and easily legible.
- Make sure there are no personnel inside the working area of the drill rig during drilling, or when moving the rig.
- Always wear a helmet, goggles and ear protectors during drilling. Also observe any local regulations.
- The exhaust air from air driven hammers and grinding machines contains oil. It can be dangerous to inhale oil mist. Adjust the lubricator so that the correct rate of lubrication is obtained.
- Make sure that the place of work is well ventilated.
- Always check that hoses, hose nipples and hose clamps are properly tightened and secured, and that they are not damaged. Hoses that come loose can cause serious injury.
- Local regulations concerning air hoses and connections must always be strictly observed. This is especially the case if the DTH-hammer is to be operated at pressures above 10 bar (145 psi).
- The machine must not be used for purposes other than those prescribed by Secoroc. See "Application" on page 8.

# Technical data

Dimensions and weights	COP 32	COP 42
Length without drill bit	925 mm	960 mm
Length excl. thread	849 mm	884 mm
Outside diameter	77 mm (82 mm*)	96 mm
Piston diameter	60 mm	76 mm
Stroke	100 mm	100 mm
Male connection thread	2 3/8 API Reg	2 3/8 API Reg
Female connection thread	Rd 50-6 (-*)	-
Spanner flat on top sub	50 mm	65 mm
Weight without drill bit	23 kg (26 kg*)	35 kg
Drilling parameters		
Working pressure	6-12 bar, 87-174 psi	6-18 bar, 87-260 psi
Rotation speed with button bit	30-40 r/min	25-35 r/min
Feed force	2-6 kN	3-8 kN
Feed force, normal, approx	3,5 kN	5 kN
Hole diameter range	85-100 mm (90-100 mm*)	100-152 mm
Air consumption at different working pressures (with standard choke plug)		
6 bar	40 l/s	56 l/s
10.5 bar	-	110 l/s
12 bar	90 l/s	-
16 bar	-	200 l/s
Blowing capacity		
6 bar	180 l/s	120 l/s
10.5 bar	-	200 l/s
12 bar	325 l/s	-
16 bar	-	330 l/s
Impact rate (strokes/min)		
6 bar	1290	1344
10.5 bar	-	1650
12 bar	1750	
16 bar	-	1950
Penetration rate in Swedish granite, 2200 bar, 30% SiO, mm/min (Standardized laboratory test)		
Bit size	90 mm	115 mm
6 bar	110 mm/min	112 mm/min
10.5 bar	-	276 mm/min
12 bar	300 mm/min	-
16 bar	-	468 mm/min

\* COP 32HD

Performance figures are average values for new hammers at sea level.

Specifikations and other data subject to alteration without prior notice.

# General

The down-the-hole hammer is a percussion hammer drill. As the name implies, the hammer works down the hole at the end of the drill string, where the impact piston strikes the drill bit directly.

Compressed air is led to the hammer via the rotation spindle and drill pipes. Exhaust air from the hammer is discharged through holes in the drill bit and used to flush clean the drill hole. Rotation is provided by a rotation unit on the feed beam and transmitted to the hammer via the drill pipes. The drill pipes are threaded so that the drill string can be extended as drilling progresses and the hole becomes deeper. Feed force is also transmitted to the hammer via the rotation unit and drill pipes. One of the main advantages of DTH hammers is that the drilling rate is not affected very much by the length or depth of the drill hole.

DTH hammers are very productive and have many applications in the mining, quarrying, civil-engineering and water-well drilling industries.

## Application (drill rigs)

A= Drill pipe

B= Down-the-hole hammer

C= Drill bit

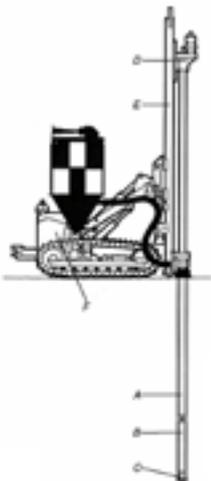
D= Rotation unit

E= Feed

F= Drill rig

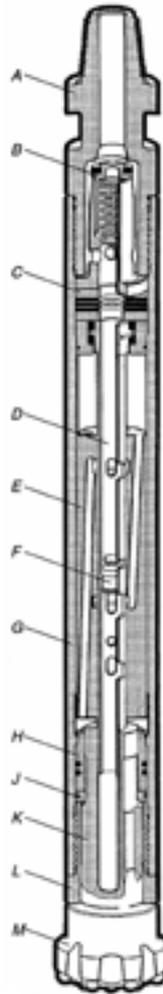
Secoroc COP down-the-hole hammers are designed for use on DTH or ITH drill rigs. They can also be used on rotary and auger type drill rigs, provided that such rigs meet the specifications for DTH applications. The main demands on the drill rig are as follows:

- It should be equipped with a rotation unit that has a variable rotation speed of 0–90 r/min and a rotation torque of 750–3000 Nm (75–300 kpm). Naturally, the torque demand for a recommended rotation speed will depend on the hammer size and bit diameter.
- A variable feed force of 3–43 kN (300–4300 kp) for shallow holes (less for deeper holes, bearing in mind the weight of the drill string). Obviously, the feed must be strong enough to pull the hammer and drill string out of the drill hole. This is an especially important consideration when drilling deep holes. The weight of the drill string varies between 9 and 34 kg/m, depending on the pipe- and bit diameters.



## Technical description

The Secoroc COP down-the-hole hammer and drill bit operate at the bottom of the hole as a unit.



The COP 32/42 consists of a long cylinder **G**, which houses a check valve **B**, compression ring **C**, piston **E**, control tube **D**, bushing **H**, stop ring **J** and drill-bit shank **K**. The rear end of the cylinder is closed by a threaded top sub **A**. The top sub has a male thread for connection to the drill pipes, and also a spanner flat. (For the COP 32, a top sub with female thread is also available.)

A driver chuck **L** threads into the front end of the cylinder. A splined union between the driver chuck and the drill bit shank **K** serves to transmit rotation to the drill bit. The front end of the driver chuck transmits feed force to the drill bit. The check valve **B** prevents impurities from entering the hammer when the working air pressure is switched off.

When feed force is applied, the drill bit is pushed into the hammer, where it presses against the bushing **H**. The piston **E** strikes the shank **K** of the drill bit directly. The path of the working air through the hammer is controlled by the piston, with the aid of the control tube **D**. Both components contain regulation ducts. A built-in damping chamber cushions the return stroke of the piston and increases the impact frequency. After the working air has imparted most of this pressure energy to the impact piston, it is led into the flushing galleries in the drill bit and cut through the flushing holes in the head of the drill bit. From here it expands upwards out of the hole, carrying the drill cuttings with it.

When the hammer is lifted off the bottom of the drill hole, the drill bit drops down to its outer position in the machine. When this happens, the piston falls into the blowing position. The percussion mechanism then stops working and only air blowing takes place, i.e. a large volume of air flows straight through the hammer and drill bit. Blowing also starts if the drill bit loses contact with the bottom of the hole while drilling is in progress. The hammer then restarts as soon as the drill bit is pressed back against the driver chuck. Blowing is used when extra powerful cleaning of the hole is required, and also in certain difficult conditions.

In difficult drilling conditions, extra flushing can be obtained by exchanging the plug **F** in the control tube for a special choke plug, which has an air duct through it. The duct enables extra flushing air to flow directly to the flushing galleries in the drill bit. This can be desirable, e.g. when large volumes of water flow into the drill hole, or when there is a large difference between the diameter of the drill bit and the diameter of the drill pipes, or when the penetration rate is abnormally fast.

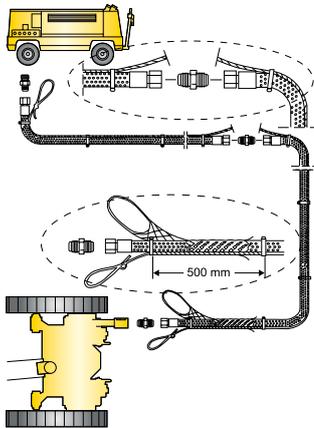
Friction between the drill pipes and the hole wall can sometimes reduce the penetration rate. This can often be counteracted by increasing the air pressure, which gives greater impact energy and faster penetration.

With the aid of Epiroc ODEX equipment, COP down-the-hole hammers can be used to simultaneously drill and case holes in overburden. Secoroc equipment for the precision drilling of long straight holes is also available.

# Preparing to drill

## Hose connection

### Connecting and securing the air hoses



For a compressed air system to be efficient, reliable and economic, there must be:

- sufficient compressed-air capacity (volume and pressure);
- minimal pressure loss between the compressor and the hammer;
- minimal air leakage between couplings.

This can be realized by ensuring that:

- the correct size of compressor is selected;
- the correct hose size is used between the compressor and the hammer;
- there is no leakage in hose connections between the compressor and hammer.

### DANGER

- Compressed-air hoses between the compressor and the drill rig must be secured by means of an external or internal safety wire, which must be fastened safely to the drill rig. If the DTH hammer is to work at pressures above 10 bar (145 psi), any local regulations regarding air hoses and couplings must be strictly observed.
- Always check that hoses, hose nipples and hose clamps are not damaged, and that they are properly tightened and secured.

### CAUTION

- Always check the condition of drill string components. Bent or worn pipes can cause damage and excessive wear to the hammer and rig.

## Setting-up the rig

Before drilling with the DTH hammer, the rig must be set-up correctly in order to give stability and safety. If this is not done, the effects of feed force and rotation torque can cause the rig to move. This will have a negative effect on drilling, especially when drilling deep, straight holes.



When setting up a drill wagon or crawler drill rig, a stable three-point set-up must be obtained, with the weight of the rig distributed between the base of the feed beam and the two rear corners of the rig. It is of the utmost importance that the rear loading points are as far to the rear of the rig as possible, with most of the rig weight being loaded on to the base of the feed.



When drilling in soil or other non-consolidated formations, the weight of the rig must not be loaded on to the feed near the mouth of the hole, since this could easily cause the hole to cave-in. Instead, the load should be distributed some distance to either side of the hole. Suitable support can be obtained by placing a sturdy U-beam under the base of the feed beam, and supporting the beam on planks at both ends. A two inch (50 mm) plank should then be placed inside the U-beam to prevent mechanical chatter and damage to the base of the feed beam.

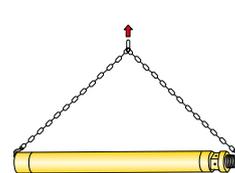
If the rig is wheel-bound, it should be raised off the ground completely using the jacks, so that all wheels are clear of the ground.



### DANGER

- The rig must be set-up correctly in order to give stability and safety. If this is not done, the effects of feed force and rotation torque can cause the rig to move or even to overturn. This can incur the risk of serious or fatal injury as well as damage to the drill rig and equipment.

### WARNING



- Heavy lift. Take care when handling the hammer. The hammer and its internal components are heavy and difficult to handle, especially in the case of the larger hammers.

When lifting using mechanical lifting equipment, sling the hammer as shown in the fig. Alternatively, a lifting-eye coupling can be screwed on to the top sub.

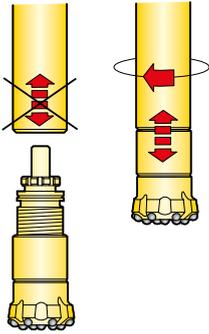
- Transportation. Do not let the hammer lie unsecured on a vehicle or drill rig. Always secure the hammer for transportation.

### WARNING

- Always wear goggles during drilling!
- The exhaust air from the hammer (and also from the top sub if a unit for extra flushing is fitted) has a very high velocity. Objects such as small stones, drill cuttings, sand, earth and oil residue that are entrained in the flushing air can cause serious injury to unprotected eyes. Pay special attention to this danger during collaring, when a top sub with extra flushing is in use, and when the hammer is fed through the drill steel support or down into the hole.

# Drilling

## Rotation to the right



DTH hammers must be rotated to the RIGHT (clock wise) during drilling, since the driver chuck and top sub are threaded into the cylinder with RIGHT-HAND THREADS.

Rotation must always be to the right when the hammer is operating. Left-hand rotation (or no rotation) will cause the driver chuck to loosen, which could mean losing the drill bit (or even the entire hammer) down the hole.

The drill string should be rotated to the right even when the hammer is not operating. For example, this should be done when cleaning the drill hole and when lifting up the drill string. It can be said that rotation to the right should be switched on as long as other operations are in progress with the hammer in the hole. The risk of the drill bit working loose should also be considered when breaking the joints between drill pipes. When adjusting the breaking wrenches, bear in mind that the drill string must not be rotated anti-clockwise any more than is absolutely necessary.

### IMPORTANT

- Always switch on rotation to the right before starting the feed or hammer.
- Let the hammer rotate to the right (clockwise) even during lifting or lowering of the hammer.
- Do not switch off rotation to the right until all other functions have been switched off.

### WARNING

- Take great care when jointing drill pipes. Make sure there is no danger of your fingers being pinched or clothing being entangled when the drill string is rotated.
- When a pipe wrench is used during jointing, there is a risk of the wrench flying off and causing injury when rotation is applied.

### DANGER

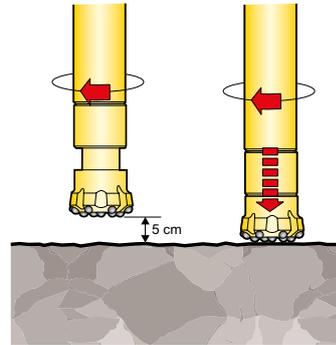
- When drilling on soft or unstable ground, great care must be taken because the flushing air from the hammer can erode the material around the drill hole, and so undermine the ground beneath the drill rig. This can pose a great danger to personnel and risk damaging the equipment.

### CAUTION

- Always wear ear protectors during drilling.

## Collaring

- Feed the hammer downward until the drill bit is about 5 cm from the collaring point.
- Start rotation to the right at low speed (creeping).
- Feed the hammer on to the rock using minimal feed force, so that the bit is pressed into the hammer, and into the impact position.
- Start collaring the hole with reduced impact and feed, until the bit has entered the rock.
- Open the impact mechanism control fully and adjust the rotation and feed so that the hammer drills smoothly and steadily.



## Feed and rotation

With holes of relatively shallow depth, the setting of feed and rotation is usually a simple matter in DTH drilling, since the hammers are comparatively insensitive to small variations in the "normal" flow and pressure settings. The settings can be regarded as correct when the drill string turns evenly without jerks or jamming, and a steady penetration rate is obtained.

## Feed force

When drilling with COP DTH-hammers, the feed force should be high enough to keep the shank of the drill bit pressed into the hammer during drilling.

- Too low a feed force will give easy rotation, excessive vibration and reduced penetration. The resultant reflex shock waves can damage the rotation unit and feed beam.
- Too high a feed force causes the rotation to jam (either erratically or completely) and can subject the drill string to severe bending stresses. It can also damage the rotation unit and feed beam.

The feed force often needs to be corrected during drilling, depending on the rock formation and the weight of the drill string, which obviously varies with the hole depth.

A rough guide to drill pipe weights for different sizes of DTH-hammer are given in the table below:

Feed force – recommendations		
	COP 32	COP 42
Feed force	2-6 kN	3-8 kN
Feed force, normal approx.	3,5 kN	5 kN

Pipe dimension, mm	Approx. weight
76 mm	9 kg/m
89 mm	15 kg/m

Bit diameter, rock formation, hole depth and available rotation torque will have a considerable influence on the setting of the feed force. What is important is that the feed force is adjusted to give

steady penetration and a constant, even rotation speed with no jamming (see table).

**N.B.** It is important that the feed force be adapted to suit the weight of the drill string. When drilling deep holes, this requires control facilities for "negative feeding"; a so-called "holdback" function.

## Rotation speed

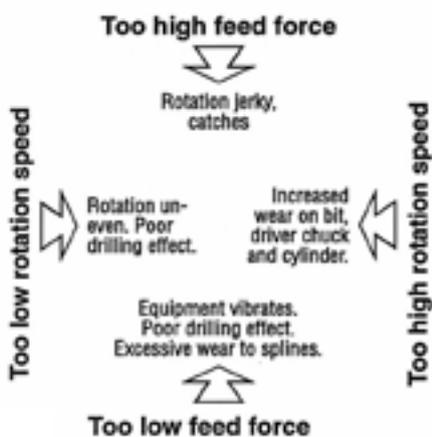
In hard rock, the rotation speed for COP 32/42 should be set between 20-35 r/min, depending on the hammer size and bit diameter (the larger the bit diameter, the slower the speed). The upper limit generally produces the best penetration rate. In very abrasive rock formations, however, the rotation speed should be reduced to avoid excessive wear of the drill bit.

When drilling in softer rock or in the case of the COP 42, when drilling with high air pressure (above 16 bar) in non-abrasive formations, higher rotation speed may be used. The following should be noted:

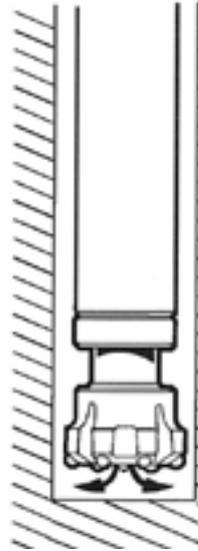
Rotation speed – recommendations ( r/min)		
Penetration rate Rock characteristics	COP 32 ø 90 mm	COP 42 ø 115 mm
0,7 - 1 m/min. Soft, abrasive rock Soft, non abrasive rock (Air pressure above 16 bar)	40-55 –	35–50 35–70
0,4 - 0,7 m/min. Medium-hard, abrasive rock non abrasive rock (Air pressure above 16 bar)	30–40 –	25–35 25–55
<0,4 m/min. Hard, abrasive rock Hard, non abrasive rock (Air pressure above 16 bar)	25–35 –	20–30 20–50

**Too high a rotation speed** will cause increased wear to the drill bit, hammer and drill pipes. Stresses to the feed and rotation unit will also increase.

**Too low a rotation speed** results in a poor drilling output and uneven operation.



## Flushing – Air-blowing



To avoid wasteful re-crushing and the risk of jamming, drill cuttings must be flushed out of the drill hole at the same rate as new cuttings are produced. It is good drilling practice to clean out the hole at regular intervals by means of air-blowing. This is especially important in non-consolidated formations and when there is a danger of the hole wall collapsing. Air-blowing is done by lifting the hammer off the bottom of the hole (fig. a) and running the feed back and forth.

**N.B.** Rotation must always be to the right. The impact mechanism stops as soon as the hammer is lifted and the bit drops downwards, which causes a considerable volume of air to flow through the hammer and flush out the hole. When the hammer is lowered on to the bottom of the hole, the bit is pressed back into the impact position, which re-starts the impact mechanism.

### ⚠ WARNING

- Always wear goggles during drilling. The backward-directed flushing air from the top sub contains drill cuttings and oil residue which can injure the eyes.

## Extra flushing

The need for extra flushing is greater when drilling with low working pressures and in difficult drilling conditions, e.g. when there is a high flow of water into the drill hole.

Extra flushing is obtained by changing the plug in the control tube to a special "choke plug", which has an air duct passing straight to the flushing ducts in the drill bit.

## Changing the choke plug

The choke plug can be changed when the control tube has been removed from the DTH hammer. The choke plug is then removed and fitted as follows:

Place the control tube on a workbench with the collar downwards. Knock out the plug with the aid of a mandrel.

Now turn the control tube so that the collar is uppe-most. Tap in the new plug with the aid of a mandrel. To make it easier to fit the plug into the control tube, the guide of the plug can be smeared with a soap solution or similar substance.

Air consumption				
COP 32		6 bar	12 bar	
With choke plug ø 4 mm		50 l/s	120 l/s	
COP 42		6 bar	10.5 bar	18 bar
With choke plug ø 5 mm	71 l/s	132 l/s	250 l/s	
ø 7 mm	85 l/s	149 l/s	280 l/s	

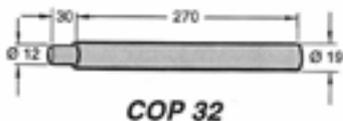
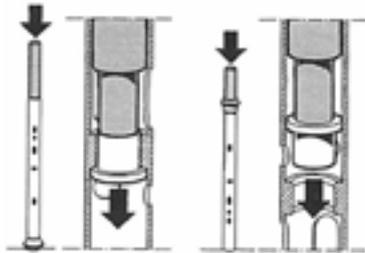
## Drilling in wet holes

The inflow of water into the drill hole is expected when drilling water wells, but can also occur when drilling deep holes for other purposes. Water inflow does not normally create problems for drilling, although both "too little" and "too much" can be troublesome.

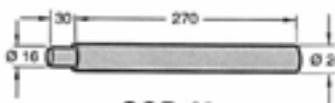
Too little water tends to bind the drill cuttings into a paste, which sticks to the drill pipes or the hole wall and can easily form collars or plugs. The problem can be lessened by adding water to the flushing air, thus increasing the fluidity of the cuttings. Fluidity can be further improved by adding washing detergent to the water.

**N.B.** Remember to increase the lubrication dosage when injecting water into the flushing air!

If the inflow of water is so great that it restricts the bailing of cuttings and water from the hole, then extra flushing will be needed. See "Extra flushing".



COP 32



COP 42

## Water injection

Water injection is normally used to suppress dust when drilling dry holes. COP down-the-hole hammers are designed to function with a certain amount of water injection. As an example, only 2–6 litres of water per minute (at 18 bar air pressure), injected into the main air line, is sufficient to control the dust when drilling with the COP 64. Too much water injection will have a very negative influence on the penetration rate of the hammer.

**Rule of thumb: 0,25 l water per m<sup>3</sup> compressed air consumed by the hammer during the drilling sequence.**

### CAUTION

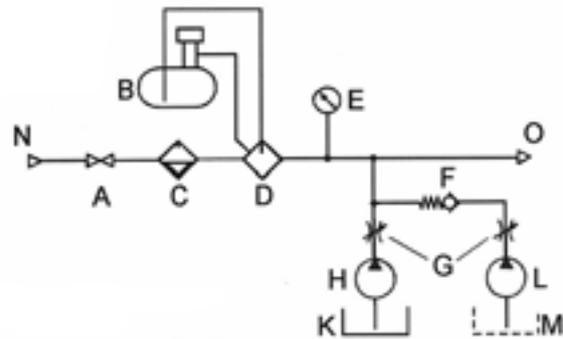
The injection point for water and foaming concentrate should always be located after the main shut-off valve on the rig. If not, there is a danger of the mixture being pumped back through the main air line and into the compressor. This could seriously damage the compressor.

## Flow chart for water flushing

A = Main inlet valve on drill rig  
 B = Container for air tool oil  
 C = Filter  
 D = Lubricator valve  
 E = Pressure gauge  
 F = Check valve  
 G = Valves  
 K = Water tank  
 N = Compressor  
 O = DTH-hammer

### Optional

L = Separate foam pump  
 M = Separate foam tank



## Foam injection

Foam can be used in DTH drilling to improve the flushing performance (especially in non-consolidated formations). It does this by "lifting up" the cuttings out of the hole, and also has the desirable effect of sealing the hole walls. Foaming concentrate is pumped into the compressed-air line in the form of a concentrate/water mixture. Atlas Copco foaming concentrate has lubricating properties and contains corrosion inhibitors, which prevent seizing in the hammer.

**N.B.** Before using foaming concentrates not supplied by Atlas Copco, please consult your Epiroc representative for advice.

With Atlas Copco foaming concentrate, a mixture of 0,5–2 percent concentrate/water is normally recommended. When drilling in water-bearing rock and other difficult formations, it might be necessary to increase the percentage of concentrate, and also to add polymers to the operating air. This will help to stabilize the hole walls and increase the lifting capacity of the foam. The concentrate/water mixture is injected into the main air line by means of a high-pressure pump.

**Minimum requirements for the water-injection pump are as follows:**

- min. pressure = 30 bar
- min. flow = 20 l/min.

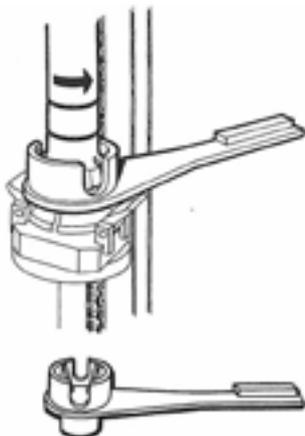
After drilling with foam, it is recommended that residual foam should be flushed out of the hammer to prevent corrosion. This is done by injecting water only into the air, and so flushing the foam out the hammer. Oil should then be poured into the drillstring and the hammer operated for a few minutes before the drill string is withdrawn from the hole. If the hammer is then to be stored for a long time, it should be dismantled and all parts cleaned and oiled thoroughly.

# Tools

## Tools for removing the drill bit and top sub from the DTH hammer

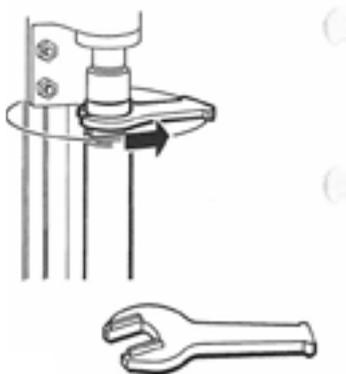
The threaded connections of the driver-chuck and top sub can become very tightly tensioned during drilling. There are special tools for removing the bit and top sub from the cylinder of the DTH hammer, and these should be used whenever possible.

### Bit removal tool



### Wrench for pipe-jointing and top sub

Wrench	Ordering No.
55 mm	8484-0211-43
65 mm	8484-0211-00



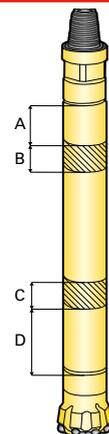
### Loosening the threads of the hammer

If special tools like chain wrenches or other types of wrench are used to break the hammer joints, then the tool must be attached around the hammer cylinder as shown in the figure. Do not attach at other points!

**NB.** Failure to attach the wrench as illustrated may result in damage to the cylinder. Any such damage will not quality for compensation.

## DANGER

- Take great care when breaking the driver-chuck joint using the bit removal tool in combination with reverse rotation. If the shaft of the tool is not locked or touching the edge of the feed beam, the shaft can turn with great force when breaking the driver chuck joint.
- Keep your hands and clothing well clear of the hammer/drill string when it is rotated. Entanglement can result in serious injury.
- Blows against hammer or bit can cause fragments of metal to fly. Always wear goggles when breaking joints.

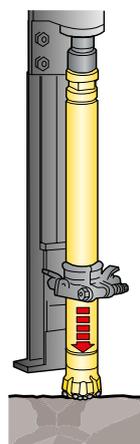


	A mm (in)	B mm (in)	C mm (in)	D mm (in)
<b>COP 32</b>	90 (3.5)	50 (2.0)	60 (2.4)	110 (4.3)
<b>COP 42</b>	140 (5.5)	60 (2.4)	60 (2.4)	110 (4.3)

## WARNING

- Take great care when jointing the drill pipes and handling the drill bit.
- Mind your fingers!
- Keep your clothing, hair, etc. well clear of rotating components! Carelessness can result in serious injury.

### A. Breaking the driver-chuck joint using percussion only

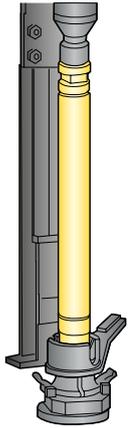


Run the hammer into the rock or a thick plank.

- Apply light feed force.
- Carefully start the impact mechanism of the hammer.
- Stop the impact mechanism as soon as the driver-chuck joint "cracks".
- Run the hammer up the feed beam to a suitable working height, and unthread the driver chuck and drill bit.

**N.B.** Beware of the weight of the drill bit. It could be too heavy to hold.

## B. Breaking the driver-chuck joint using the bit removal tool



If the driver-chuck joint is very tight, the special bit-removal tool should be used to break the joint.

**Important: Never use a sledge-hammer on down-the-hole hammers.**

- Place the bit-removal tool in the drill steel support.
- N.B.** Looking from behind the feed beam, make sure that the shaft of the bit-removal tool is touching the left-hand edge of the feed beam.
- Carefully run the bit down into the bit removal tool.
- Slowly start up the impact mechanism of the hammer.
- Stop the impact mechanism as soon as the driver-chuck joint "cracks".

- Unscrew the driver chuck by rotating the COP hammer to the LEFT (anti-clockwise).

## Dirt in the hammer

Stoppages and breakdowns caused by dirt in the percussion mechanism are practically inevitable with all rock drills, and DTH hammers are no exception. However, it should be remembered that, while DTH hammers are no more sensitive to dirt than top-hammers, there is obviously a greater risk of dirt ingress in down-the-hole drilling, especially during pipe jointing. Any dirt that enters the drill pipes goes straight into the percussion mechanism. To ensure reliable operation of the hammer, every effort should therefore be made to prevent dirt from entering the drill pipes. The following rules should be observed:

- Always keep drill pipes clean. Always store or stack drill pipes in such a way that the risk of dirt ingress is minimized. Do not let the thread ends rest on grit or mud. Use thread covers wherever practicable.
- Always keep the open thread end of the drill pipe covered during jointing, and remove the cover just before the pipe is coupled up.

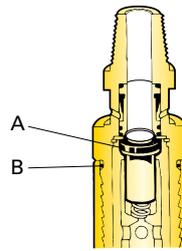
- Before coupling up, check that the drill pipe is clean around the threads and on the inside. If in doubt, blow clean the pipe.

Remember to cover the pipe end that is already in the hole.

- If threads are dirty, they should be cleaned using a strong bristle brush or a cloth.

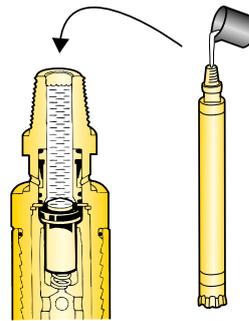
**N.B.** Always clean away from the hole in the pipe. Do NOT let grit fall into the hole in the pipe. After cleaning, always coat the threads with Atlas Copco thread grease before jointing.

- Take extra care during jointing operations when drilling in abrasive rock formations, since the ingress of quartz particles into the hammer will cause heavy wear.
- When drilling holes in water-bearing rock, never leave the hammer at the hole bottom with the air supply switched off. If drilling is to be suspended temporarily, always pull up the hammer by at least two pipe lengths.
- Clean around the driver chuck before changing the drill bit. Make sure the shank of the new drill bit is clean.
- Keep the hammer clean and plug both ends when not in use. Change worn or damaged parts in good time.



All Secoroc COP down-the-hole hammers contain a check valve that is designed to trap a quantity of air inside the hammer when the air supply is switched off. In most conditions, this prevents the ingress of water and dirt into the hammer during jointing operations. The check valve A and O-ring B must be fault-free when drilling in water-bearing formations. When drilling deep holes in rock with a high water inflow, however, it is possible that some

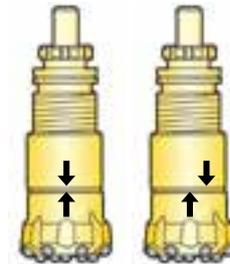
seepage of water into the front of the hammer will take place during jointing. Since only very small particles of dirt would be able to penetrate the hammer in this way, the threat to the hammer is not serious.



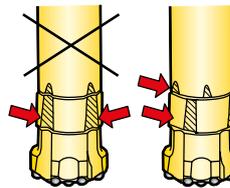
The sealing efficiency of the check valve can be checked by pouring a small quantity of lubricant through the top sub of the hammer, with the hammer held vertical. If the lubricant passes through the check valve, then the valve spring and/or valve seal is worn or damaged and should be replaced immediately.

## Other instructions

### Wear to the driver chuck and hammer cylinder



Since the driver chuck and hammer cylinder are "sand-blasted" continuously by large volumes of abrasive cuttings during drilling, they eventually become worn out. The areas adjacent to the cuttings grooves in the drill bit will be subjected to the most wear. To prevent uneven wear of the hammer cylinder, therefore, the driver chuck and bit should be marked as shown in figure, before the chuck is lifted off the bit.



When fitting the driver chuck back on to the drill bit after grinding or replacing a drill bit, its radial location on the bit shank should be advanced by one spline section. This will give a more even distribution of wear on the driver chuck and hammer cylinder.

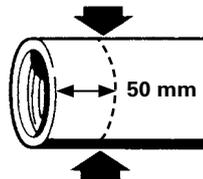
If the driver chuck is exposed to exceptionally heavy wear, e.g. when drilling in rock formations with a high quartz content (granite, quartzite etc.), it may be necessary to turn the driver chuck by more than one spline section in order to prevent the driver chuck and hammer cylinder from wearing out too quickly. As a rule, the cuttings grooves in the bit should always be pointing towards the part of the driver chuck that is **least** worn.

Since the hammer cylinder has three thread inlets, the part of the driver chuck that is worn the most can be located against the part of the hammer that is worn the least.

## Checking the wear of the driver chuck and hammer cylinder

Wear to the driver chuck and hammer cylinder should be checked regularly, e.g. every time the bit is reground or changed. Measure the diameter of the hammer cylinder using a sliding calliper. Measure along the full length of the cylinder, with the exception of the outermost 100 mm at each end. At any point between these points, the diameter of the hammer cylinder must not be less than the minimum permissible diameter given for the respective DTH hammer sizes in the table below.

Minimum permissible diameter	
COP 32	69 mm
COP 42	87 mm



The outside diameter of the driver chuck must not be less than that of the hammer cylinder.

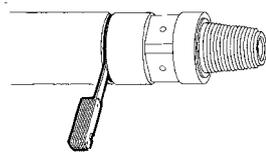
**N.B.** When the hammer cylinder has to be changed, the driver chuck must be replaced at the same time (see the section "Wear limits").

The hammer should be overhauled at suitable intervals, depending on the operating conditions. The abrasiveness of the rock will affect the overhauling intervals, since it has a strong bearing on the rate of wear.

### ⚠ IMPORTANT

- When checking the play between the top sub and the cylinder, the O-ring F on the top sub must always be removed.
- If this is not done, the shimming will not be correct and there will be a risk of breakdown in the hammer. After checking the clearance and fitting shims (if necessary), the O-ring F must be fitted back on the top sub.

## Shimming



### Checking the clearance between the top sub and the cylinder

When fitting the top sub to the hammer, the clearance between the top sub and the cylinder must be checked with a feeler gauge. This is done as follows:

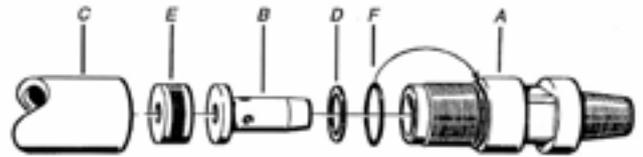
- Remove the control tube from the hammer. Fit back the other parts and thread the top sub into the cylinder, tightening it by hand only. The clearance between the top sub A and cylinder C must not be less than 0,75 mm, then shims must be fitted.

## Fitting the shims

Place 1-3 shims D (ordering NO:s: COP 32 / 3161-1146-00, COP 42 / 3161-1054-00) between the top sub A and valve body B as necessary. After the shims have been fitted, the clearance between the top sub and the cylinder should be between 1,5 and 2,5 mm.

- After the clearance have been checked and shims fitted (if necessary), the control tube must be fitted back into the hammer.
- If the clearance is less than 0,75 mm in spite of max. 3 shims having been fitted, and if the top sub has been tightened by hand only, this indicates that the compression ring E is worn and must be changed.

- Finally, the top sub must be screwed firmly into the cylinder and tightened with the aid of a rod spanner. The clearance between the top sub and the cylinder should now have disappeared almost completely.



## Clearance before/after shimming

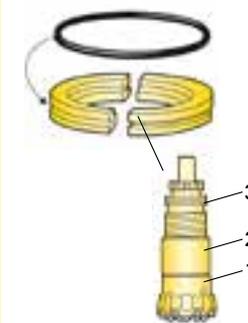
	Ordering No. shims (1-4)	Min. clearance	Clearance after shimming
COP 44	3161-1422-00	1,5 mm	1,9-2,5 mm
COP 54	3161-1522-00	1,8 mm	2,2-3,0 mm

## Assembly of the drill bit and driver chuck

- Smear the splines of the bit shank with Atlas Copco thread grease.
- Smear the O-ring of the stop ring with silicone grease.
- Assemble the bit 1, driver chuck 2 and stop ring 3 as shown in figure.

**NB.** The stop ring halves must be fitted so that the O-ring grooves line up with each other. Make sure the stop ring faces the right way.

### ⚠ IMPORTANT



Make sure the stop ring is located correctly, and that it faces the right direction. Incorrect fitting will result in severe damage to the hammer.

- Smear the thread on the driver chuck with Atlas Copco thread grease.
- Screw in the bit assembly into the cylinder and tighten the driver chuck securely with the aid of the special bit removal tool.

# Regrinding the drill bit

The rate of bit wear depends on the rock formation, and is highest in rocks with a high quartz content. A suitable grinding interval should be determined according to the rate of bit wear. It is more economical to regrind too early rather than to suffer poor penetration rates and risk damaging the drill bit through overdrilling. A few hints about the care of drill bits:

## DANGER

- Before grinding, always check the flushing holes of the drill bit for traces of explosive. Contact with the grinding wheel can cause the explosive to explode causing serious or fatal injury as well as damage to the equipment.

To clean the flushing hole, use only a wooden rod, copper wire or flushing water.

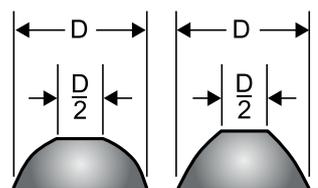
## CAUTION

- Always wear ear protectors, protective clothing, gloves and goggles when grinding.
- Use a dust extraction system or an approved dust mask. This is of special importance when dry grinding indoors.

## IMPORTANT

- Always use water flushing when grinding wheels.
- Use water if possible also with grinding cups and hand-held grinders.

## When to regrind

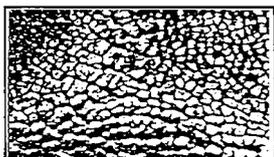


Button bits should be regrind when the penetration rate drops, or if any of the cemented carbide buttons are damaged (fractured buttons should be ground flat). It is both practical and economical to redress the buttons when the wear flat

reaches about 1/2 of the diameter of the button.

**Note:** This is a general recommendation.

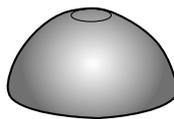
## Look out for "snake skin"



If microscopic fatigue cracks – so-called "snake skin" – begin to appear on the cemented carbide buttons, they must be ground away. In any event, bits should be regrind after 300 metres of drilling at the most. This should be done even if

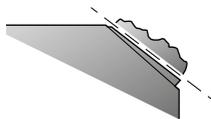
there are no visible signs of wear and the penetration rate continues to be good. If snakeskin is not removed, the cracks will deepen and ultimately result in button fracture.

## Do not grind away too much cemented carbide



Do not grind too much on the top of the buttons. Let a few millimetres of the wear flat remain on top of the button.

## Always grind broken buttons flat



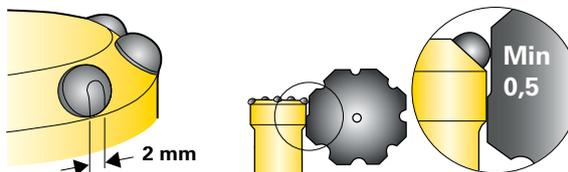
A drill bit can remain in service as long as the gauge buttons maintain the diameter of the bit. Fractured buttons must always be ground flat to prevent chips of cemented carbide from damaging the other buttons.

## Avoid grinding the perimeter

Gauge-button anti-taper has to be removed by grinding, although excessive reduction of the bit diameter should be avoided. Leave about 2 mm of the wear flat.

If necessary, remove some of the bit-body steel below the gauge buttons, so that a clearance (taper) of 0,5 mm is maintained.

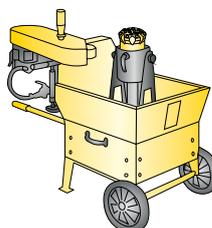
If the flushing holes start to deform, open them up with the aid of a rotary burr or steel file.



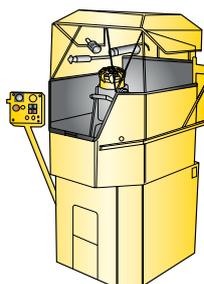
# Grinding equipment



The Grind Matic HG is a portable, hand-held, air-powered grinding machine for button bits, ideal for use at the worksite. It is used with diamond-impregnated grinding cups, which can be used with or without water flushing.



The Grind Matic Manual B-DTH is a mechanized air-powered grinding machine for button bits. It is mounted in a steel box-barrow, which can be wheeled easily around the worksite. The Grind Matic Manual B-DTH uses diamond-impregnated grinding wheels.



For "permanent" grinding stations, a mechanized stationary grinding machine is available, the Grind Matic BQ3-DTH. It is equipped with automatic feeding devices and grinds both the cemented-carbide buttons and the bit-body steel in one operation. The machine uses diamond-impregnated grinding wheels.

Further information about grinding equipment can be found in the respective product leaflets.

# Care & maintenance

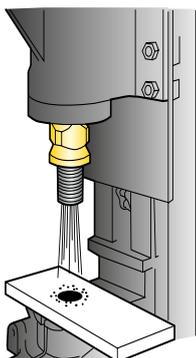
The service life and performance of DTH hammers depends to a large extent on good operating practice and regular maintenance. The following recommendations should be observed:

- Make sure that the compressed air is always clean and dry.
- Always blow clean the air hoses before connecting them to the rig.
- Make sure that the drill pipes are stored properly in the pipe rack, or stacked on trestles in such a way that dirt cannot enter the pipes.
- Fit thread guards to the ends of the drill pipes whenever practicable. Keep the threads and the insides of the pipes clean.
- Always cover the "open" thread end of the drill pipe during pipe-jointing operations. The ingress of dirt into the drill string will cause blockages and/or seizure in the hammer, which can result in breakdown.
- Check regularly that the dosage of lubricating oil into the operating air is sufficient. Check that the lubricating-oil tank on the rig is filled with oil of the correct type and quality. See "Recommended lubricants".
- Check the wear on the driver chuck and hammer cylinder regularly. The diameter of the driver chuck must never be less than that of the hammer cylinder. The service life of the hammer cylinder can be prolonged by always fitting a driver chuck with a greater outside diameter than that of the hammer cylinder. When the components are approaching their minimum permissible diameters, frequent inspection is necessary. Alternatively, change the components in good time – it makes good economic sense.

**N.B.** When the hammer cylinder is replaced, the driver chuck should be replaced at the same time (see "Wear limits").

A general overhaul of the hammer should be carried out at suitable intervals, depending on the operating conditions and empirical statistics. The abrasiveness of the rock will have a considerable effect on the rate of wear, and will affect the overhauling intervals accordingly.

## Lubrication



Lubricating oil is vital for the satisfactory operation of DTH hammers. Apart from regular checking of the oil level in the lubricating-oil tank, always make sure that there is oil in the compressed air. This can be checked whenever the rotation unit is free, i.e. disconnected from the drill string.

Simply place a plank over the drill-steel support and blow operating air on to the plank. After a few moments, the surface of the plank should become oily, which confirms that lubricant is being carried to the hammer in the operating air.

The importance of adequate lubrication of the hammer cannot be over-emphasized. Poor lubrication will accelerate wear and ultimately result in breakdown. The effective lubrication of the DTH hammer is not always a straight-forward matter, owing to wide variations in operating conditions, e.g. extreme temperature differentials between the hammer and the lubricator, water or foaming concentrate added to the operating air, etc.

Different lubricants have different properties. Mineral oils have the

best lubricating properties and are preferable in most cases. Mineral-base oils have good adhesion properties and are produced in different viscosity and temperature-range grades.

Since mineral oils have good resistance to water, they are suitable for use even when comparatively large volumes of water are injected into the operating air. In this case, however, the dosage must be increased.

Glycol-based lubricants, such as Atlas Copco Air Oil, are water soluble, and must not be mixed with mineral oils. They are used primarily to prevent freezing, and should be used only when there is a minimal water content in the operating air. Glycol-based lubricants are used extensively in water-well drilling for reasons of water hygiene. If there is a lot of condensation in the drill string, which is often the case in long drill strings, then lubrication may become unsatisfactory because dilution seriously affects the function of glycol-base lubricants.

Other lubricants worth mentioning are the so-called "edible" oils, which consist of vegetable oils, synthetic lubricants of the ester type, or a mixture between these two. Edible oils can be mixed with mineral oils, have good lubricating properties and are non-toxic.

## Lubricators

Both plunger-pump and nozzle-type lubrication systems are available.

The plunger pump is relatively insensitive to the viscosity of the lubricant and gives a more reliable dosage compared with the nozzle-type lubricator. This is of major importance when the ambient temperature is low.

About 1 ml of oil per m<sup>3</sup> of operating air consumed should be the minimum dosage for bench drilling. As a rule, higher dosages are needed in water-well drilling.

Normal lubrication dosage	
COP 32	0,2–0,4 l/hr
COP 42	0,3–0,5 l/hr

In case of water injection, increase dosage by 0,1–0,2 l/hr.

**N.B.** The distribution of lubricating oil through the compressed air system generally takes place in the form of so-called "wall flow".

If the air system has been shut off for a long period of time, it can take quite some time for the lubricant to reach the hammer. In such cases, a small amount of oil must be poured directly into the hammer or air hose before drilling.

## Choice of lubricating oil

For COP down-the-hole hammers it is recommended to use Atlas Copco COP oil. When choosing between other types of lubricants, the oil should have:

- Suitable viscosity

Ambient temp. °C(°F)	Viscosity grade
–20 to +15 (–4 to +59)	ISO VG 46-100
+15 to 35 (59 to 95)	ISO VG 100-150
> +35 (95)	ISO VG 150-220

- Good adhesion properties
- High film strength
- Corrosion inhibitors

For reasons of water hygiene, lubricating oils used in water-well drilling should be non-toxic.

The temperature limits given above refer to the temperature of the oil in the tank, i.e. the ambient temperature. In cases where the hammer is powered by warm compressed air at high operating pressures, e.g. when connected to a nearby portable compressor, the temperature of the operating air must be taken into consideration. In such cases it may be necessary to choose a thicker oil than what is recommended in the table.

### Recommended lubricants

Lubricating oil tank	Atlas Copco COP oil
Threads and splines	Atlas Copco thread grease
O-rings and rubber parts	Silicone grease (temperature limits -20 to +120°C)

Ordering No. Atlas Copco COP oil:	
Can 10 litres	3115 3125 00
Can pallet 48 x 10 litres	3115 3126 00
Drum 208 litres	3115 3127 00

# Wear limits

Component	Wear limit	Action	Comments
Drill bit (diameter).	Min. 6–10 mm (COP 34 4–7 mm) greater than the max. diam. of the cylinder.	Fit new bit.	Min. measurement at lower working pressures. Max. measurement at higher working pressure.
Driver chuck (diameter).	Never less than the diameter of the cylinder.	Replace.	Failure to replace in good time will cause severe wear to hammer cylinder.
Cylinder (diameter).	COP 44 – min. 89 mm COP 54/54Qm – min. 111 mm COP 64/64qm – min. 132 mm	Replace.	Measure the diameter along the full length of the cylinder, with the exception of the outermost 100 mm at each end. Risk of fracture.
Bit bushing (inside diameter).	COP 64 max. 87,6 mm	Replace.	Measure the bit bushing at its waist.
Piston / Cylinder.	Diametric clearance: max. 0,20 mm	Replace worn parts.	Outside diameter of piston should be measured at the sealing surface of the piston.
Piston / Control tube.	Diametric clearance: max. 0,20 mm	Replace worn parts.	Inside diam. of the piston against outside diam. of the control tube.
Check valve.	Valve seat worn or damaged.	Replace worn or damaged parts.	Tightness of check valve can be tested by pouring a small amount of oil into the valve with the hammer in vertical position.
Sleeve (flushing valve).	Worn or damaged.	Replace.	
Buffer.	Worn or damaged.	Replace.	

# Trouble shooting

Fault	Cause	Remedy
Impact mechanism does not operate, or works with reduced effect.	Air supply throttled or blocked.	Check the air pressure. Check that all air passages leading to the hammer are open.
	Oil is not reaching the impact mechanism of the hammer. Poor or no lubrication, causing increased wear, scoring or seizure.	Let operating air blow through rotation spindle on dry plank or similar. After a few moments, plank surface should become oily. Inspect lubricator. Top-up with oil if necessary or increase lube oil dosage.
	Too large clearance (wear) between the piston and cylinder, or between piston and control tube.	Disassemble the hammer and inspect the wear (see "Wear limits"). Replace worn parts.
	Hammer clogged with dirt.	Disassemble the hammer and wash all components.
	Compression ring worn or damaged.	Check clearance between top sub and cylinder. (See "Checking the clearance between the top sub and cylinder", page 10) Replace worn or damaged compression ring.
	Worn buffer rings in the cover.	Disassemble the hammer and replace the buffer rings.
	O-rings in bit bushing (COP 64) are worn or damaged.	Disassemble the hammer and replace the O-rings.
	Dirt enters the hammer when drilling in water-bearing formation.	Make sure the check valve seals against the seat in the top sub (see "Dirt in hammer", page 9). Remove the top sub and replace check valve.
Lost drill bit and chuck	Impact mechanism has been operated without rotation to the right.	Fish out the lost equipment using a fishing tool. Remember to always use right-hand rotation, both when drilling and when lifting the drill string.
Excessive air consumption	Flushing valve parts damaged. Foot valve worn or damaged.	Disassemble and replace damaged parts, see page 7. Replace foot valve, see page 12.

## Overhauling

DTH hammers should be overhauled at suitable intervals depending on the drilling conditions and empirical service records. Since the abrasiveness of the rock has a considerable bearing on the rate of wear, it will affect the overhauling intervals accordingly. Before the DTH hammer is sent to an authorized Epiroc service workshop for overhauling, the joints at the top sub and driver chuck should be "cracked" on the rig.

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