

Custom Seed Plate Drilling Instructions

Select the seed plate thickness

Measure the height of your seeds as they lay on a table. Custom seed plates are available in three thicknesses ($3/32''$, $3/16''$, and $1/4''$). Choose a thickness equal or slightly thicker than your seeds.

Choose a drill size

Measure the longest dimension of your seeds as they lay on a table. An inexpensive set of dial calipers is handy for this step.

Select a drill size equal or slightly larger than the longest dimension of the seeds. For example, if you measure $.24''$ then use a $1/4''$ drill bit.

Select seed spacing from the chart below

Spacing	# of holes	Pattern to use
19''	1	6 hole
9-1/2''	2	6 hole
6-3/8''	3	6 hole
4-3/4''	4	16 hole
3-3/4''	5	10 hole
3-1/8''	6	6 hole
2-3/8''	8	16 hole
1-7/8''	10	10 hole
1-3/16	16	16 hole

Mark the hole locations using the Metal Drill Template

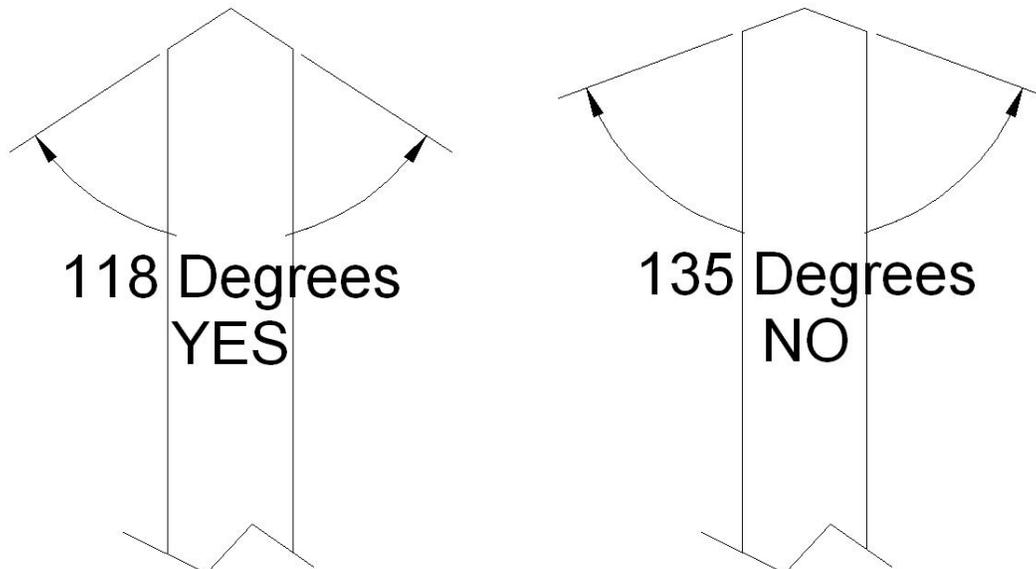
Position the metal drill template on the blank seed plate so the D holes in the center line up. Use masking tape to fasten the template to the seed plate (see image on page 3).

If your desired hole size is $3/32''$ or smaller, then use a drill bit that matches your desired hole size to drill through the appropriate openings in the template.

If your desired hole size is larger than $3/32''$, then use a $3/32''$ drill bit to drill starter holes through the appropriate openings in the template. After the starter holes are drilled, remove the template from seed plate. Then use a larger drill bit that matches your desired hole size to enlarge the starter holes.

Only use 118 degree drill bits. The common 135 degree drills will not work safely!

See the picture below for an explanation of the difference in drill bit angles:



The more pointy 118 degree bits will drill a better hole in the plastic seed plates.
The flatter 135 degree drill bits will gouge into the plastic and tear the seed plates.

Drill on a piece of scrap lumber. Be sure to hold the Seed Plate down firmly against the scrap lumber so it does not ride up the drill. It is OK to clamp the seed plate to the scrap wood, especially for larger diameter holes.

Start with 3/32" hole drilled through the template, and then increase the drill size by a maximum of 2/32" each time.

Example: to get a 5/16" diameter final hole, first drill 3/32", then 5/32", then 7/32", then 9/32", then 5/16" diameter.

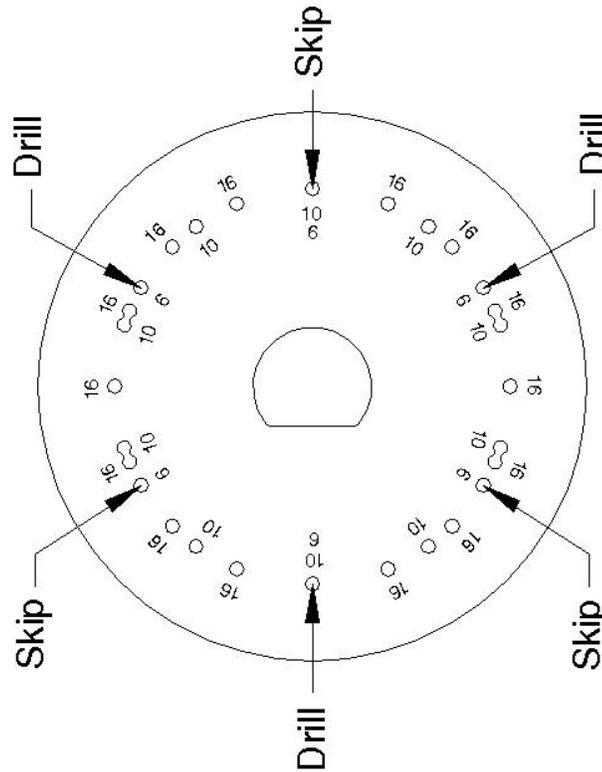
Tip: You can purchase a "step drill bit" from most hardware stores that allows you to increase hole size without changing the bit. A step drill bit is most handy when drilling large holes for large seeds like beans and corn.

Discount tool dealers like Harbor Freight have sets of drill bits that cover the range from 1/16" to 1/2" in 1/64" or 1/32" steps. Though the strength of these drill sets is poor for drilling metal, they are fine for drilling plastic. **BE SURE TO GET A 118 DEGREE SET.**

Use a pocket knife to remove any plastic burrs from the drilled holes.

Example drilling locations

3 hole pattern
(uses half of the 6 hole pattern)



4 hole pattern
(uses 1/4 of the 16 hole pattern)

