

Mild to Medium Carbon Steels for turning and milling:- some basic information

The freest cutting steel is **230M07Pb** which has a small lead content. Rounds and Hexagons are available in most sizes used in the home workshop but Squares appear to be limited to 1.375"

For general work use **230M07**

If **230M07** is not available:

Steel to **070M20** is a reasonable alternative in a wide range of sizes and shapes.

Steel to **080A15** is in a similar range of shapes and sizes.

Both machine similarly but less well than **230M07**.

Steels to **070M20** and **080A15** are preferred for welding.

Steel to **080A15** is preferable for case hardening.

Some suppliers still list materials using earlier En numbers and although not always exact equals the following table shows the six digit numbers with their nearest En steel type.

International BS970 pt.3 1991	Ease of machining	Earlier spec. BS970 1955	
230M07Pb	130	- En-1APb	Leaded
230M07	100	- En1A	
070M20	55	- En3B	
080A15	55	- N/Available	Welding - Case Hardening
080M40	44	- En8	Welding - Hardening
303S42	52	- En58A	Basic stainless for comparison.