

HACK YOUR COMMUTE *p. 96* GET STARTED: **3D PRINTING** *p. 76*

# Popular Mechanics

TECH AUTO HOME ADVENTURE SCIENCE

THE QUEST FOR

**1000 MPH**

BUILDING THE WORLD'S  
FASTEST CAR *p. 68*

ONE JET ENGINE +  
ONE ROCKET ENGINE =  
**0-1000 IN 55 SECONDS**





**BEST HOLE DRILLER**



**HITACHI**  
DN 12DYK

**RANKING** ★★★★★

**Price:** \$213

**Volts:** 12

**Amp-hours:** 2

**3/8-inch holes:** 63

**Likes:** The only drill in the test that relies on a nickel-cadmium battery, the Hitachi is very basic. Weighing 3 pounds, 6 ounces, and measuring about a foot long, it slides into your back pocket. Yet this little guy is a respectable drill and driver.

**Dislikes:** A bit slippery. Needs some overmold.

**RYOBI**  
P241

**RANKING** ★★★★★

**Price:** \$200

**Volts:** 18

**Amp-hours:** 4

**3/8-inch holes:** 257

**Likes:** There's no secret to Ryobi's success. If you put a 4-Ahr battery in the tool, it can punch one hole after another. But it has more to like than hole-drilling mileage. It has enough torque for respectable metal drilling, and a magnetic tray above the battery for bits. We like its comfy trigger.

**Dislikes:** None.

**PORTER-CABLE**  
PCC 520B

**RANKING** Unrated

**Price:** \$64

without battery

**Volts:** 18

**Amp-hours:** 1.3

**3/8-inch holes:** 26

**Likes:** None.  
**Dislikes:** It's rare that a tool flunks our tests. But we can't rate this one. We tried two and smoked the motor in both. The first made 15 holes, then acrid smoke poured forth. The next tool produced 26 holes before it smelled like burning plastic. None of the other tools bored a hole with even a whiff.