



W&B Machine Identification Guide

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Getting the right parts for your Webster & Bennett vertical boring mill starts with three pieces of information: the **serial number**, the **series**, and the **table size**. This guide shows you how to find all three.

STEP

1

Find the Serial Number

The serial number plate is on the **end face of the cross slide** — stamped or cast into the metal. This is the primary location.

Secondary location: the headstock nameplate — but this can be missing or re-stamped after rebuilds. Always prefer the cross slide.

Format: NNNN-S where NNNN = machine number, S = suffix (build batch). **Example: 5416-3** (slash variant 5416/3 is identical)

The suffix matters — it identifies the build batch and can affect parts compatibility.

STEP

2

Determine the Series

The machine number (left of the dash) determines the series. **Parts compatibility depends entirely on series** — do not order parts based on serial number alone.

Series	Machine # Range	Era	Key Note
Pre-DH / D / DCM	Up to ~5021	Pre-1960s	High variation — always contact W&B UK with photos
Early DH	5022 – 5232	Early 1960s	Thin Taylor clutch plates; old spring (8473-09)
Series II DH	5233 – 5441	Mid 1960s	Splined/thicker clutch plates; old spring (8473-09)
Series M / EM	5442 – 6561	Late 1960s–70s	Spur-drive clutch; new spring (8473-10)
Series N / EV / R	6562+	1970s–1990s	Always No.6 spur clutch regardless of table size

Near-boundary warning: at serial numbers close to series boundaries (e.g. 5020–5025, 5230–5235, 5440–5445, 6560–6565), physical inspection or W&B UK confirmation is recommended before ordering.

STEP
3

Confirm the Table Size

The table size (diameter of the rotary table) is critical for clutch plate selection and several other parts. Common sizes: **36"**, **48"**, **60"**, **72"**.

Where to find it: check the **speed plate on the control panel** — the table diameter is usually listed there. If not visible, measure the table diameter directly.

Note on 48" machines: some are S.H.S. (Special High Speed) variants, which use a No.6 clutch instead of No.5 on Early DH machines. Flag this when ordering clutch parts.

STEP
4

Check for Modifications

Always ask: *"Has this machine been rebuilt or modified?"* Many W&B machines have had clutch upgrades, hydraulic replacements, or CNC retrofits over their decades of service.

A serial number does not guarantee original components. If the machine has been modified, **provide photos when requesting parts** — we can often identify non-standard components from photos.

Quick Reference — Have These Ready When You Call

Information	Where to Find It	Example
Serial number + suffix	End face of cross slide (stamped/cast)	5416-3
Series	Calculated from machine number	Series M (5442–6561)
Table size	Speed plate on control panel	60"
Modification history	Maintenance records or inspection	Clutch upgraded 2005

Ready to order parts?

Call or email with your serial number, series, and table size. We'll handle the rest.

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