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> DEWALT DW281 Variable-Speed Reversible Positive-Clutch Screw Gun Instruction Manual

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Model: DW281

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential instructions for the safe and effective operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your DEWALT DW281 Variable-Speed Reversible Positive-Clutch Screw Gun. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the tool to ensure proper handling and to prevent injury or damage.

The DEWALT DW281 is a 6.5-Amp screw gun designed for driving screws with precision and efficiency. Its variable speed and positive clutch mechanism offer enhanced control and productivity, making it suitable for various fastening applications.

GENERAL SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING: Read all safety warnings, instructions, illustrations, and specifications provided with this power tool. Failure to follow all instructions listed below may result in electric shock, fire, and/or serious injury.

Work Area Safety

- Keep work area clean and well lit. Cluttered or dark areas invite accidents.
- Do not operate power tools in explosive atmospheres, such as in the presence of flammable liquids, gases, or dust. Power tools create sparks which may ignite the dust or fumes.
- Keep children and bystanders away while operating a power tool. Distractions can cause you to lose control.

Electrical Safety

- Power tool plugs must match the outlet. Never modify the plug in any way.
- Avoid body contact with earthed or grounded surfaces, such as pipes, radiators, ranges, and refrigerators. There is an increased risk of electric shock if your body is earthed or grounded.
- Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions. Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock.

Personal Safety

- Always wear eye protection. Use safety glasses or goggles.
- Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. Keep your hair and clothing away from moving parts.
- Stay alert, watch what you are doing, and use common sense when operating a power tool.

COMPONENTS AND FEATURES

The DEWALT DW281 Screw Gun is engineered with several features to enhance performance and user comfort.



Figure 1: Overview of the DEWALT DW281 Screw Gun. This image displays the yellow and black screw gun with its main body, handle, trigger, and bit holder.

Key Features:

- **1/4-inch Quick-Change Bit Holder:** Allows for fast and easy bit changes without additional tools.
- **Metal Gear Case:** Provides increased durability and protection for internal components, extending tool life.
- **Two-Finger Trigger:** Designed for enhanced comfort and reduced user fatigue during extended operation.
- **Positive Clutch:** Engages only when pressure is applied, preventing overdriving screws and improving fastening consistency.
- **Excellent Ergonomics:** Contoured design for comfortable handling and reduced strain.

- **Helical-Cut, Heat-Treated Steel Gears:** Ensures long life and durability under demanding use.
- **Variable Speed Reversible Motor:** Offers precise control over driving speed and allows for screw removal.

SETUP

Unpacking

Carefully remove the screw gun and any accessories from the packaging. Inspect the tool for any damage that may have occurred during shipping. Do not discard packaging until you are sure all components are present and the tool is in good condition.

Inserting a Bit

1. Ensure the screw gun is unplugged from the power source before inserting or removing bits.
2. Pull back the collar on the 1/4-inch quick-change bit holder.
3. Insert the desired 1/4-inch hex shank bit fully into the bit holder.
4. Release the collar to lock the bit in place. Gently pull on the bit to ensure it is securely seated.

Power Connection

Connect the screw gun's power cord to a standard 120V AC electrical outlet. Ensure the outlet is properly grounded.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Starting and Stopping

- To start the tool, depress the two-finger trigger. The speed is variable depending on how far the trigger is pressed.
- To stop the tool, release the trigger.

Variable Speed Control

The screw gun features a variable speed trigger. Light pressure on the trigger results in lower speeds, while increasing pressure increases the speed up to the maximum 2,500 RPM. This allows for precise control when starting screws or working with delicate materials.

Forward/Reverse Operation

A forward/reverse switch is located near the trigger. Push the switch to the left for forward rotation (driving screws) and to the right for reverse rotation (removing screws). Always ensure the tool has come to a complete stop before changing the direction of rotation.

Using the Positive Clutch

The positive clutch engages when pressure is applied to the screw gun, pushing the bit into the fastener. This mechanism helps prevent over-tightening and stripping of screw heads. Apply firm, steady pressure to the tool to engage the clutch and drive the screw. Release pressure once the screw is seated to disengage the clutch.

Driving Screws

1. Select the appropriate bit for your screw type.
2. Place the screw on the bit tip.
3. Position the screw gun perpendicular to the workpiece.
4. Apply firm, steady pressure to the tool and slowly depress the trigger to start the screw.
5. Increase trigger pressure as the screw enters the material, maintaining consistent forward pressure until the screw is fully seated.
6. Release pressure and the trigger to stop the tool.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and extends the life of your DEWALT DW281 Screw Gun.

Cleaning

- Always unplug the tool before cleaning.
- Use a clean, dry cloth to wipe down the exterior of the tool.
- Periodically clean the ventilation openings to prevent overheating. Do not use solvents or harsh chemicals.

Inspection

- Regularly inspect the power cord for damage. If damaged, have it replaced by a qualified service technician.
- Check the bit holder for wear or damage. Replace if necessary to ensure secure bit retention.
- Ensure all external screws are tight.

Lubrication

This tool is factory lubricated, and no further lubrication is required under normal operating conditions.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If your DEWALT DW281 Screw Gun is not functioning correctly, consult the following table for common issues and solutions.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Tool does not start	No power supply; Damaged cord/plug; Faulty switch	Check power outlet; Inspect cord/plug for damage; Contact service center if switch is faulty.
Bit not holding securely	Bit not fully inserted; Worn bit holder	Ensure bit is fully inserted and collar is released; Replace bit holder if worn.
Screws are stripping or overdriven	Incorrect pressure; Worn bit; Clutch issue	Adjust pressure; Replace bit; Contact service center if clutch is faulty.
Excessive heat or unusual noise	Overload; Blocked ventilation; Internal damage	Reduce load; Clean ventilation slots; Discontinue use and contact service center.

For issues not listed above, or if solutions do not resolve the problem, please contact DEWALT customer service or an authorized service center.

SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Value
Model Number	DW281
Amperage	6.5 Amps
No-Load Speed	0-2,500 RPM
Clutch Type	Positive Clutch
Max. Fastener Size	#14

Attribute	Value
Item Torque	132 Inch Pounds
Voltage	120 Volts (AC)
Power Source	Corded Electric
Tool Weight	3.4 lbs (approx. 1.54 kg)
Product Dimensions	12 x 10.25 x 3 inches
Bit Holder	1/4-inch Quick-Change Hex

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Warranty Information

Your DEWALT DW281 Screw Gun comes with the following warranty package:

- **30-Day No-Risk Satisfaction Guarantee:** If you are not completely satisfied with the performance of your DEWALT tool, you can return it within 30 days for a full refund.
- **One-Year Free Service Contract:** DEWALT will maintain the tool and replace worn parts caused by normal use, for free, any time during the first year after purchase.
- **One-Year Limited Warranty:** DEWALT will repair, without charge, any defects due to faulty materials or workmanship for one year from the date of purchase.

For full warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the official DEWALT warranty statement or visit the DEWALT website.

Customer Support

For technical assistance, service, or to locate an authorized service center, please visit the official DEWALT website or contact DEWALT customer service.

DEWALT Website: www.dewalt.com

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

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