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## How long is the bar on a stihl ms170 chainsaw

Can you put an 18 inch bar on a Stihl MS170? The short answer is that you cannot put an 18-inch bar on this chainsaw. This is because there are certain specifications regarding the guide bars that come with the chainsaw, and if you go beyond them, you may end up damaging your chainsaw. This article will showcase why you shouldn't use a Stihl 18 inch bar on your Stihl MS170. Can you put an 18 inch bar on a Stihl MS170?If you are thinking about whether you put an 18-inch bar on a Stihl MS170 or not, the clear answer is "NO."The main reason for this is that the guide bar cover cannot house an 18-inch bar without any modification to the saw. You can, however, use the recommended guide bar ranges from 12 inches to 16 inches as long as you get a new chainsaw.Ideal Bar Size for Stihl MS170The Stihl MS170 is perfect for homeowners looking for a reliable and easy-to-use chainsaw.The ideal bar size for this power tool is 16 inches the manufacturer also recommends.You can quickly get its optimum power with this suggested setup. Additionally, this power tool supports bars ranging from 12 to 16 inches according to your working need. Therefore, you can use any mentioned size for reliable and durable use.What happens if more extended size attached to Stihl MS170?Putting a longer bard on a Stihl MS170 chainsaw is not recommended, resulting in tool damage or personal injuries. Chainsaws are designed to be both portable and safe. A short bar makes it easier to carry and protects the user from kickback if the tip of the saw comes into contact with something.However, a more extended bar increases the distance between the tip of the saw and the engine, which means that there is more chance of damage if it hits something.Also, remember that a key factor in reducing kickback is to use a shorter bar. If you are using a saw on a tree branch above waist height, you may be putting yourself at risk for serious injury.Specifications of Stihl MS170Before you purchase a bar for your Stihl MS170, make sure that you know the specifications.Stihl MS170 Chainsaw is a professional chainsaw capable of tackling your most demanding cutting jobs. Engineered to be lightweight, it features an ergonomic design that makes it easier to handle. It also has an anti-vibration system that reduces fatigue and provides better control. The Stihl MS170 chainsaw is equipped with a 1.7 bhp engine which provides 1.8 cu. in. displacement for optimum power and performance. The PMM3 OILOMATIC® chain is designed for power and durability. This chainsaw has a 16" guide bar length recommended for tough jobs. It has an 8.6 lbs. powerhead weight which is excellent for its class. This model also includes the industry-leading IntelliCarb™ compensating carburetor, which allows for quick starting.What size bar is on a Stihl MS170?The recommended bar size on a Stihl MS170 chain saw is 16-inch, but the beam of your chainsaw will also be significant in determining how much space you will have to work with while cutting through branches and logs.However, due to the adjustments that can be made, it's often easier to get an idea by looking at pictures of the different sizes available for each chainsaw model. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)The maximum bar length for the Stihl MS170 chainsaw is 16 inches long. This length is the recommended size for getting the most out of this powerful chainsaw. Additionally, you have the flexibility to use a bar range from 12 to 16 inches according to your requirements.No, you can't use a bar bigger than 16 inches on your MS170. The reason behind this is the guide bar cover that cannot house. Alternatively, if you can manage (commercially not available) a bar designed to fit your saw, you can use a bigger one. But it's not recommended for safety measures.You can put a more extensive bar on Stihl chainsaws but only with specific models. According to the Stihl charts, 12 to 16 inches bar is usable for theMS170& 171, MS 180& 181, MS 192, and the Stihl MS 211 models. On the contrary, the MS 250 and 251 models are ideal to use with 18 inches bar for the massive engine power.ConclusionBy now, you should have a practical answer on can you put an 18 inch bar on a Stihl MS170? after reading this far. Chainsaw bar size is essential to consider before making a purchase.So, when choosing a chainsaw, you definitely want to consider the size. If the bar is too short, it will be dangerous and inefficient. If the bar is too long, it could be hard to handle safely.As a rule of thumb, you want the bar to be about 1 inch longer than the widest diameter log that you cut.You Can Also Read: If a tree falls in your yard, you have brush to keep clear or you like to cut your own firewood, having a chainsaw around can be one of the smarter investments you can make. However, as with any power tool, some brands and models are better than others.Husqvarna 550 XPFirst up on the list is the Husqvarna 550 XP, which Popular Mechanics rates at four and a half out of five stars. It's fast and can handle most heavy-duty cutting jobs, but it's also on the expensive side. Expect to pay between \$550 and \$650 for it. The engine is 50.1 cubic centimeters and weighs about 10.8 pounds. While it may flood if you're not careful, it's one of the more powerful saws on the market.Craftsman 35170For something a little more budget-friendly, Family Handyman recommends buying the Craftsman 35170. It's priced between \$100 and \$200, and it has a smaller engine at 38 cubic centimeters. However, for the price, it's still a worthy little chainsaw. It comes with an air purge, tool-free chain tensioner and carrying case. Just keep in mind that it can be a little difficult to start compared to a costlier chainsaw. Perhaps start with this model and work your way up to something like the Husqvarna 550 XP.Stihl MS 261 C-MWith a rating of five out of five stars, Popular Mechanics calls the Stihl MS 261 C-M the "best overall" chainsaw on the market. Like the Husqvarna, it's got a 10.8-pound engine, but it's a little bigger at 50.5 cubic centimeters. It's also an inch or so longer than most other chainsaws in its class, but you won't mind when you use it. Popular Mechanics claims the saw "bites in and stays with the cut" no matter how rough or tough it is. One of its most exciting features is the STIHL M-Tronic onboard microprocessor, which makes automatic adjustments for changes in temperature, fuel quality and elevation.Jonsored CS 2240 SFor something middle of the road, Family Handyman suggests the Jonsored CS 2240 S. You'll find it in the \$300 range and with an engine that's 40.9 cubic centimeters. According to Family Handyman, it's easy to start and fast to cut up whatever you put in front of its 16-inch bar. It also comes with several extras, like an air filter pre-cleaning system, a fuel-level indicator, a tool-free chain tensioner and a spring-assisted starter cord.Echo CS-501PAnother great mid-range saw is the Echo CS-501P, which Popular Mechanics rates as four out of five stars. Its 10.6-pound engine is 50.2 cubic centimeters, and it typically costs between \$450 and \$500. The carburetor is adjustable, and saw itself is powerful. You'll enjoy how easy it is to start too. One of its better features is that temperature doesn't impact it, whether it's extremely hot or cold. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET The heading pretty well says it all. I've got some big fir to take down, but I'd rather not drag in a big felling saw and a small limbing saw. I love my little Stihl and I'm sure it would have the power to drive a longer chain, especially for pulp. In a previous article, I answered the question "Are chainsaw bars interchangeable?", and explained what determines bar compatibility on a general level. I also promised to return with more specific info for a few selected saw brands.In this post, I am going to tell you about the compatibility of Stihl guide bars, and how to find bars that fit your Stihl chainsaw. The article in a nutshell is that Stihl guide bars come in 3 different bar mounts and a total of 9 pitch-gauge combinations. To fit, a replacement bar for a Stihl chainsaw should have the same mount type and chain pitch as the saw; the bar and chain should further have matching pitch.We will next start with a short recap of chainsaw bar compatibility. Then, we will turn to the main topic of this article - Stihl bar mounts and pitches and gauges - and how these determine which bar fits your saw. Although not strictly a compatibility issue, we will also take a look into bar length with Stihl saws, as this an important practical aspect. We will end with a examples of bar fitting to some of Stihl's most popular models. AdvertisementsNEW; Bar info for a specific Stihl model is best found in my Stihl saw profiles.Please also check my Stihl bar data page for tabulated info on original Stihl bars as well my list of Oregon bars and Tsumura bars for Stihl. I also have an article on Stihl-vs-Husqvarna bar compatibility if you are interested in mixing Stihl and Husqvarna bars.Bar compatibility in briefAdvertisementsYou can read more about bar compatibility in general in my previous article. The matching principles are simple, and can be summarized in one paragraph:To be compatible with a given chainsaw, a guide bar must essentially have only two things: 1) the right bar mount and 2) same chain pitch as the saw. To be further compatible with a certain chain type, a bar should also be matched to 3) the chain gauge.These matching principles apply to Stihl bars just as to all other brands: when searching for a compatible replacement bar for your Stihl, just look for bars with the same mount and pitch as your saw. Bar length, gauge, brand, kerf, construction, nose profile, etc., are important, but do not affect saw compatibility as such.AdvertisementsWhat makes the application of these simple rules challenging is that Stihl uses so many different mounts and pitches across their chainsaw product line, all of which are mutually incompatible. This is what we are going to go through next.1 Stihl bar mountsAt current, Stihl chainsaw and bars use three (3) different bar mounts: the small 3005, the medium 3003 and the large 3002. These are not interchangeable: if your saw has a 3003 mount, so must your bar.The image above shows you what the large and medium Stihl mounts look like. In the table below, you see which mount each Stihl model uses, the width of the mount slot, and compatible Cannon and Oregon replacement bar mounts.Indentifying the mountTo determine the proper mount for a replacement bar for your saw:Check the table for the mount type of your sawIf you do not find your model in the table, you can determine the mount yourself using one of the following methods:Check the part number of the old bar (if it's a Stihl). The mount is the first four numbers in the part number stamped on the bar.Measure the slot width of the old bar and compare to the widths in the tableIf you have no bar that fits, measure the diameter of the bar studs at their root using a caliper - this should be close to one of the slot widths in the table. (Bar studs are the "bolts" that stick out of the saw body and go through the bar slot.)Bars with Stihl mounts 3002 (top) and 3003 (bottom). Arrows indicate the mount codes on the bar.Finding barsFinding Stihl replacement bars which have the right mount can be a bit tricky online, since the mount is not usually clear from the bar model name neither explicitly given in the bar specs.The best way I have found is to check the bar model number carefully before purchase: with original Stihl bars, the first four digits of the model number are the mount code.2 Stihl pitches and gaugesStihl guide saws, bars and chains are designed for a total of 6 different chain pitches and 3 gauges. In the current Stihl lineup, these form 7 pitch-gauge combinations, and bars are available in 9 combinations. The combinations are mutually incompatible.In the table below, I have listed the design chain pitch and gauge options for most Stihl chainsaw models.Note that the pitches with a "P" suffix designate special low profile chains, that go by the names "Picco", "Extended" or "LP". These are not compatible with the regular pitch parts, that is 3/8" P will not fit 3/8" parts (I did make this mistake myself).Also note: some Stihl saws seem to have been delivered in two different pitches. Examples are at least MS 880, MS 250, and some others in the MS 200 series. Whenever possible, please check your saw pitch from the manual, the bar, or the chain.Indentifying pitch & gaugeThere are many ways to find out the pitch of your Stihl chainsaw:Use the table above: if you know your saw model number, you can check the pitch from the table above. NB: double-checking with other methods recommendedCheck bar markings: Stihl bars have the pitch and gauge clearly printed on them (unless they have been worn out). If you have the original bar, this will tell you what you need. See image below for an example.Check chain markings: Stihl chains have markings that are relatively simple to interpret and will tell you the pitch and gauge.AdvertisementsMatching pitch & gaugeSince there is quite some confusion our there about how saws, bars and chains go together in terms of pitch and gauge, let's still recap the matching principles:The saw, bar and chain all must have the same pitch. In practice, the drive sprocket on your saw determines the pitch of the bar & chain.The bar and chain must have the same gauge. (The saw powerhead does not care about the gauge.) You can choose your chains to match the pitch of the bar, or the other way around.Stihl bar lengthsAfter discussing Stihl bar mounts, pitches and gauges, we can turn to the biggest remaining aspect of bar size: bar length.With Stihl chainsaws, bar length is not a compatibility issue as such. Provided the bar has the right mount and pitch, in principle you could put any length bar on any Stihl saw and make it run somehow.Rather than compatibility, bar length is a question of saw power, practicality and safety; the question to ask is would this bar length make sense on this saw?AdvertisementsI give general guidelines for guide bar length in a separate article. Here I will stick to Stihl's recommendations.Stihl has a recommended bar length range for each of their chainsaw models to address these issues. The range is determined mainly by the saw size and power.Bar length vs. Engine sizeThe minimum bar length recommended by Stihl is 10" or 12" for small (35 cc and under) gasoline-powered, battery or electric chainsaws, and 16" for medium-sized and large gas saws. I suspect this minimum is related to kick-back safety.The maximum bar length Stihl recommends for their saws increases roughly linearly with engine size:Very small under 30 cc and smallest battery and electric models take a 12" bar at maximum.Small 30...35 cc gas, mid-sized electric and large battery saws take a 16" bar,Mid-sized 45...50 cc gas and large electric saws take a 20" barLarge 60...120 cc saws have maximum bar lengths between 25" and 59"; the recommendations vary a lotAdvertisementsI have summarized minimum and maximum recommended bar lengths in the table below, and added a few Stihl models as examples of each motor size class.Motor size [cc]Examples of Stihl modelsBar lengthmin [in]max [in]under 30 ccMS 150, 151MSA 120...161MSE 14110" or 12"12"30...35 ccMS 170...201MSE 170, 21012"16"45...55 ccMS 271, 261, 291MSE 25016"20"60...120 ccMS 362, 661, 88116"25"...59"I should note that these guidelines are relatively rough, and Stihl's recommendations do not always go in sync with motor size or power. For example, the MS 500i has a longer max bar than the MS 661, despite the latter having both a bigger motor and more horsepower; the MS 250, on the other hand, has a recommended range of only one length (18"). To be sure, check the recommendations for your particular model.Stihl bar fit examplesFinding which bars fit your Stihl can be a bit confusing even after reading all of my instructions above.To make the screening process clearer, we will next take a few of the most popular Stihl chainsaw models as examples. As it so happens, these models are also the ones with a few more catches than average.NEW; Bar fit info for most Stihl saws in my Stihl saw profiles.What size bar for MS 170?The MS 170 is a small but capable 30 cc homeowner saw. According to the first table, the MS 170 has the small 3005 Stihl mount and will therefore clearly take 3005 mount bars.The second table tells that the MS 170 has a chain pitch of 3/8" P, but the gauge may be either .043" or .050". Stihl website says PMM3 (.043") in all regions I checked, but the saw seems to have shipped also with .050" bars. Luckily you can fit the saw with a bar of either gauge, as long as you get the matching chain.AdvertisementsFinally, the Stihl gives 12" to 16" as the recommended bar length range for this model.The MS 170 takes a 12" to 16" bar with a 3005 mount, 3/8" P (Picco) pitch, and either .043" or .050" gauge.(A side note: Contrary to the websites, Stihl's chain identification PDF actually gives MS 170 the pitch 1/4" P. I contacted Stihl, and it seems that the website has the correct info for all regions.)What bar size for MS 250?The MS 250 ties with MS 251 as Stihl's most powerful homeowner saw. Matching a bar to this popular Stihl model is a bit more challenging than usual, since the saw comes in two different pitches.First, checking the mount table, the MS 250 clearly has the small 3005 mount - in fact, it is the most powerful Stihl with this bar mount.AdvertisementsThe pitch & gauge table, however, shows two options for the saw: 3/8" P pitch at .050" gauge or .325" at .063" gauge. Stihl USA currently lists the saw as .325", but the global site as 3/8" P. Based on this, I'd guess new US models are likely .325" and European ones 3/8" P, but before ordering a new bar, you should definitely check the pitch from the old bar.The MS 250 carries yet another surprise in recommended bar length range: Stihl websites give the range as one length only - 18". I am uncertain whether this is as intended, since Stihl's online bar & chain selector tool gives both 16" and 18" bars, and the fairly similar MS 251 with the same power rating is also given a 16" to 18" bar length range.The MS 250 takes a 16" or 18" bar with 3005 mount and a pitch-gauge combination of either 3/8" P/.050" or .325"/.063", the latter more likely in the US.The updated versions MS 251 and MS 251 Wood Boss are similar in that they also take a 16" or 18" bar with 3005 mount, but have only a single pitch and gauge of .325"/.063".MS 271 Farm BossThe MS 271 Farm Boss is a popular mid-range Farm & Ranch saw. It's bar compatibility is fortunately more clear cut than that of MS 250 or MS 170, and can basically be read straight from the tables:The MS 271 Farm Boss takes a 16" to 20" bar with the medium 3003 mount, .325" pitch and .063" gauge.A note on Stihl bar modelsAs of 2021, Stihl sells almost all of their guide bars under the Rollomatic tradename. There are really six different lines of Rollomatic bars, ranging from the small "E Mini Light" up to the "Super E".The main thing to note here is that the Rollomatic model names indicate different bar constructions and profiles, not compatibility. Specifically,not all Rollomatic bars are interchangeable!not all bars in the same Rollomatic line are interchangeableBest guides in search for compatible Stihl bars are the part number and specifications, not the model name. See my Stihl bar data page for more info.

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