

Fortis

Fortis Engineering Co

[FORTIS ENGINEERING CO., Ltd.](#), Toolmakers, Norfolk Street, Coventry. T. A.: " Fortis Coventry." T. N.: Coventry 800.

Established 1900. Incorporated 1910.

Directors: Frank Martin and Hubert Martin.

Speciality.—" Fortis " steel parallel vices (patent). (Fortis Engineering Graces Guide, 2017)

Fortis is a company about which very little is known. We know they were established in Coventry in 1900 and incorporated as a company in 1910, but subsequently we can find very little except some adverts and catalogue entries. In 1918 we find they had 15 male employees based at Fortis Works, Percy Street, Coventry. (Coventry Collections Org, n.d.)

1918 Directory of Manufacturers in Engineering and Allied Trades: Company F

4929 Fortis Engineering Co., Ltd., The, Parallel vices (steel).
Norfolk Street, Coventry. **Employees : Male 15, Female**
Phone : Coventry 800.
T/A : Fortis, Coventry.
Area No. 4.

1922 Alfred Herbert catalogue

| FORTIS QUICK RELEASE STEEL VICES | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------|---------|-------------------|------|
| Similar in design to the Ajax Vices listed above. | | | | | | | |
| No. | Width of Jaws | Depth of Jaws | Jaw opening | Weight | Each | Swivel Base extra | |
| 10 | 4½" | 3" | 5" | 46 lbs. | £8 5 0 | £1 | 8 0 |
| 11 | 5¼" | 3½" | 6" | 54 lbs. | 9 10 0 | 1 | 10 0 |
| 12 | 6" | 3¾" | 7" | 74 lbs. | 12 0 0 | 1 | 18 0 |
| 13 | 7" | 4" | 8" | 86 lbs. | 14 0 0 | 2 | 2 0 |
| 14 | 8" | 4½" | 9" | 100 lbs. | 17 10 0 | 2 | 6 0 |
| 15 | 9" | 6" | 12" | 140 lbs. | 32 10 0 | — | |

CCD/CES/1/1898: Percy Street, 'Fortis Works' (Coventry Collections Org, n.d.)



(Fortis Engineering, n.d.) Seems 1st or 2nd generation with plate affixed to side. Round hub for bar.



Ebay advert 2022 later No 6 model "Unbreakable". Egg shaped anvil stylish casting. Flat hub for bar.

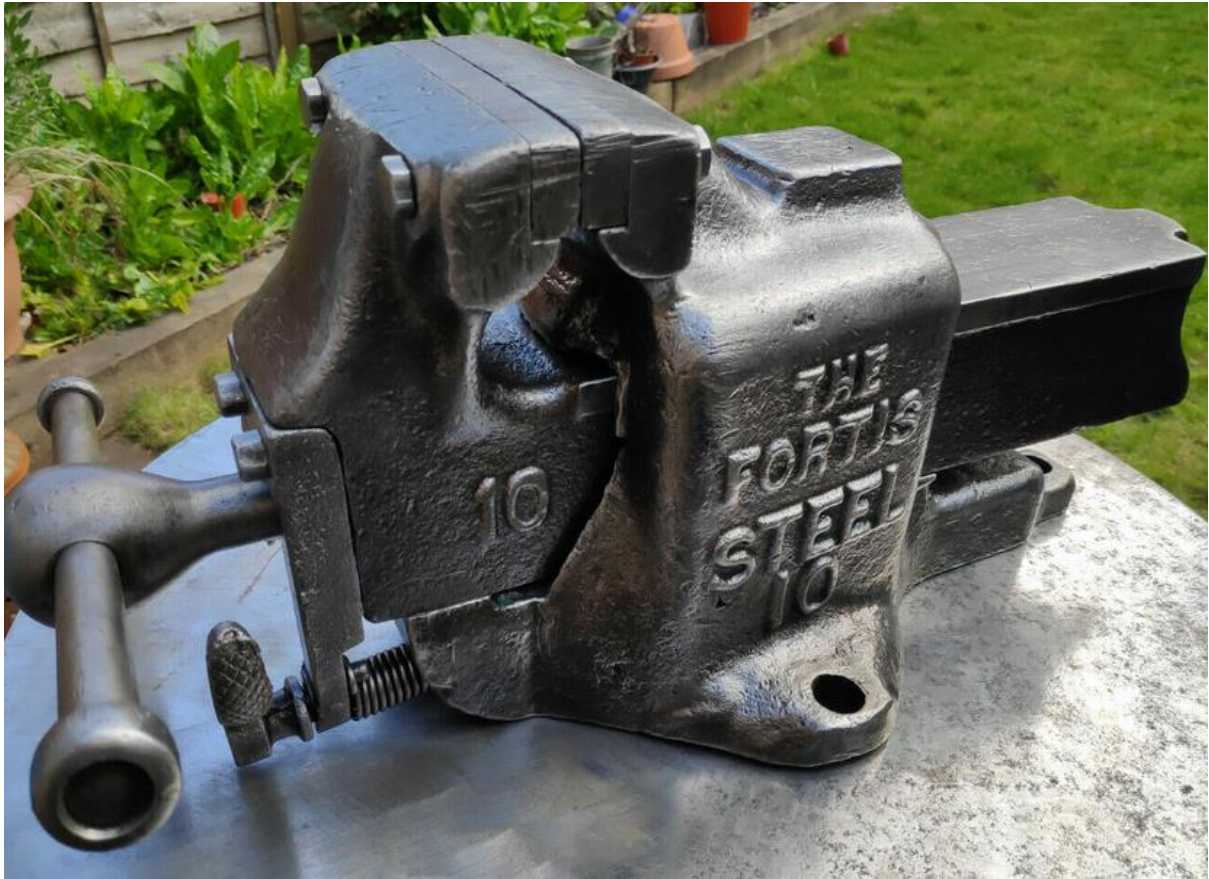




Ebay 2022 Steel No12 later shaped design casting but no "Unbreakable". Egg shaped anvil flat hub for bar



Ebay advert 2022. Steel No 12 adjacent rectangular anvil, round hub for bar



Ebay 2022 Steel No 10 remote square anvil and round hub for bar.





Ebay 2022. No 12. VM cast into base and extra 12 cast (now in 3 places) Round hub.
Production numbers punched onto side plates. Rectangular anvil.



Ebay 2022. No10 "The" is dropped – Fortis Steel. Side plates added. Round hub for bar.





Fortis 11. One side Fortis Steel 11.
 Reverse "The Fortis Eng^g Co L^{td} Coventry"
 Stylish casting remote rectangle anvil. Round hub.
 Matches 1920 advert below.



Ebay 2022. The Fortis Steel. No size. rectangular anvil round hub. End of moving jaw like Record 112 series (or vice versa !!!)




1920.



1951

Fortis Steel Combination Vice

Fig. 9152




This combination Vice is one size only, 6 in., is dual purpose for normal bench work and for holding pipes or shafts. Its capacity for the latter enables $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to 5 in. diameter workpieces to be secured.

PRICE, No. 12/C £23 1 6 cash

Fortis Steel Offset Vices

Fig. 9153



These Vices give unrestricted clearance for vertically held work, in addition to their uses as normal bench vices.

| No. | Width of Jaw, in. | PRICE, each |
|------|-------------------|-------------|
| 10/0 | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ | £13 13 6 |
| 11/0 | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 16 5 0 |
| 12/0 | 6 | 19 13 0 |

1964.

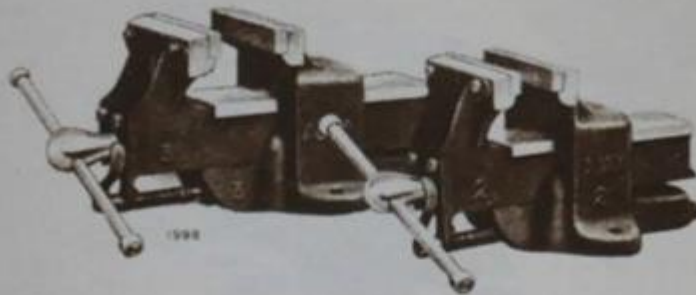
Fortis of Norfolk Street, Coventry, and of 91 Station Street, Birmingham.

Manufacturers of engineers vices.

Established 1900.

It is suggested that Fortis and Ajax Vices are the same and all made by Alfred Herbert.
(demographic, 2013)

Note: Moving jaw end shape is different on Fortis and Ajax designs – any version/model/date.



AJAX QUICK RELEASE ALL STEEL VICES

The body of the Ajax Vice is of exceptional strength, being a jointless steel casting, designed to withstand heavy usage.

The quick releasing motion is very simple, the half nut being withdrawn by a direct lever action, and when engaged with the screw, it is firmly held in position. A special buttress thread is employed, which has been found to be the most efficient and durable for the purpose. The renewable jaws are special steel of large section, and may be re-cut a number of times; they are interchangeable and held in position by hexagon head set screws from the outside, which allows them to be removed and replaced by an ordinary spanner without dismantling the vice.

The end stop for the sliding jaw is provided with a cushioning arrangement; hexagon head screws are used throughout so that it is unnecessary to use a screwdriver.

The vice has been thoroughly tested, and has proved unbreakable in general shop work.

A sample vice will be sent for inspection on application. Every vice is guaranteed against breakage.

DIMENSIONS AND PRICES.

| No. | Width of jaws. | Depth of jaws. | Opening. | Weight. | Price. |
|-------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|--------|
| No. 1 | 4½" | 3" | 5" | 38 lbs. | 40/- |
| No. 2 | 5½" | 3½" | 6" | 48 lbs. | 46/- |
| No. 3 | 6" | 3½" | 7" | 65 lbs. | 52/- |
| No. 4 | 7" | 4" | 8" | 80 lbs. | 60/- |
| No. 5 | 8" | 4½" | 9" | 85 lbs. | 66/- |
| No. 6 | 9" | 6" | 12" | 155 lbs. | 100/- |



Alfred Herbert branded AJAX vice No 2.