

Turning or Milling?

Mechanical Engineering

Which machine the feature belongs on, and why the cut feels different.

Turning

- Workpiece spins, tool stays still
- Round parts: shafts, bores, threads
- Continuous cut, steady force
- High metal removal for the power

Milling

- Tool spins, workpiece feeds
- Prismatic parts: faces, slots, pockets
- Interrupted cut, cyclic tool load
- Needs workholding and more setups

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

If the feature is about an axis, turn it. Otherwise mill it.

A mill-turn machine does both in one setup, which removes the largest single source of position error.