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› General Tools Heavy-Duty Automatic Center Punch #78 Instruction Manual

General Tools 78

General Tools Heavy-Duty Automatic Center Punch #78 Instruction Manual

Model: 78

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the safe and effective use, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your General Tools Heavy-Duty Automatic Center Punch, Model #78. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the tool to ensure proper function and longevity.



Figure 1: A close-up view of the General Tools Heavy-Duty Automatic Center Punch #78, showcasing its black knurled body and steel tip.

PRODUCT FEATURES

- **Steel Body:** Constructed from durable steel, this tool is designed for pre-drilling, scribing, staking, and preparing nail and screw holes.
- **Replaceable Hardened Steel Point:** Features a conical-shaped steel tip that can be replaced, allowing for precise marking without slipping.
- **Adjustable Spring Tension:** An automatic mechanism strikes with downward pressure, eliminating the need for a hammer. The spring tension is adjustable for light or heavy strokes on various surfaces.
- **Knurled Finger Grip:** Provides a sturdy grip, enhancing handling and reducing slippage for improved safety and control.

- **Rust-Resistant Finish:** Measures 6 inches in length and features a black oxide finish to inhibit rust.

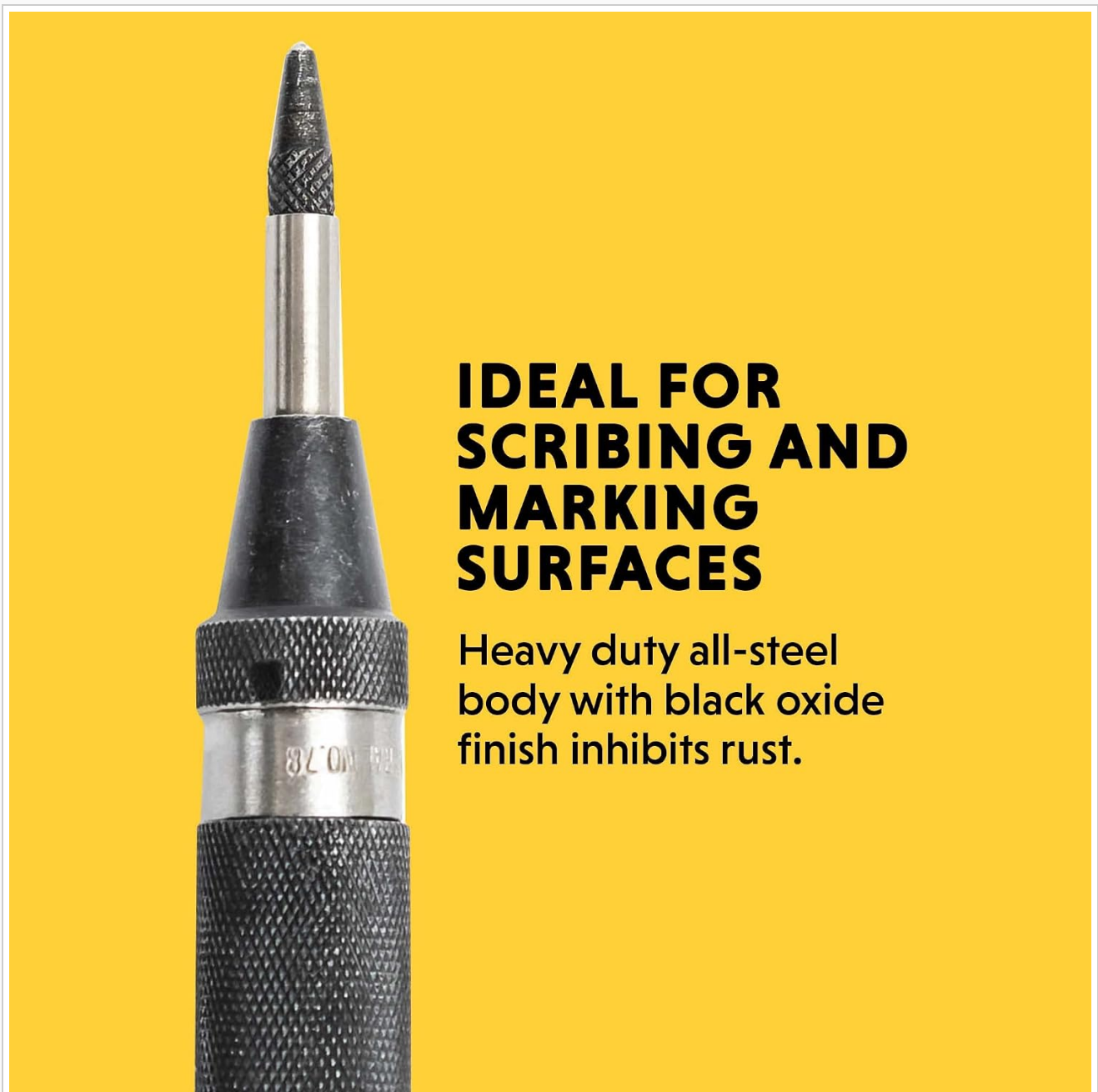


Figure 2: The heavy-duty all-steel body of the center punch with its black oxide finish, suitable for scribing and marking various surfaces while resisting rust.

SETUP

1. **Unpacking:** Carefully remove the automatic center punch from its packaging. Inspect the tool for any signs of damage.
2. **Point Inspection:** Ensure the hardened steel point is securely threaded into the body of the punch. If loose, gently tighten it clockwise.
3. **Adjusting Tension:** The striking force can be adjusted by rotating the knurled cap at the top of the punch. Rotate clockwise for a heavier strike and counter-clockwise for a lighter strike. Test on a scrap piece of material to achieve the desired force.



ADJUSTABLE SPRING TENSION

Spring tension adjusts for lighter or heavier punches on wood and metal surfaces.

Figure 3: An illustration showing the internal spring mechanism of the center punch, which allows for adjustment of tension to produce lighter or heavier marks on various surfaces.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The automatic center punch is designed for one-handed operation, providing a precise mark without the need for a hammer.

1. **Prepare Workpiece:** Place the material to be marked on a stable, flat surface.
2. **Position the Punch:** Hold the center punch firmly with one hand, ensuring your fingers are on the knurled grip for stability. Position the conical steel tip precisely on the desired marking location.
3. **Apply Pressure:** Apply downward pressure on the top of the punch. As pressure increases, the internal spring mechanism will automatically release, striking the tip and creating a mark.
4. **Verify Mark:** Lift the punch and inspect the mark. If a deeper mark is required, reposition the punch in the existing indentation and repeat the process. Adjust the spring tension if a consistently lighter or heavier mark is needed.



CONICAL-SHAPED STEEL TIP

Allows for safe drilling at the exact location without slippage or damaging the work surface.

Figure 4: The conical-shaped steel tip of the center punch making a precise mark on a metal surface, illustrating its ability to prevent slippage.



THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE FOR MARKING & STAKING THE TOUGHEST METALS

IDEAL FOR

- Woodworkers
- Metal workers
- Machinists
- Mechanics
- DIYers

Figure 5: An image demonstrating the automatic center punch being used to mark a point on a wooden surface, highlighting its application for various trades.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** After each use, wipe the tool clean with a dry cloth to remove any debris or residue. For stubborn grime, a lightly oiled cloth can be used, followed by a dry wipe.
- **Lubrication:** Periodically apply a light machine oil to the internal mechanism by disassembling the punch (unscrewing the top cap and removing the spring and striking pin). This ensures smooth operation and prevents corrosion. Reassemble carefully.
- **Point Replacement:** The hardened steel point is replaceable. If the tip becomes dull or damaged, unscrew the old tip counter-clockwise and replace it with a new General Tools #78 replacement point. Ensure the new tip is securely tightened.
- **Storage:** Store the center punch in a dry environment to prevent rust and corrosion.



Figure 6: A close-up of the replaceable hardened steel point of the automatic center punch, emphasizing its durable construction.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Punch does not strike or strikes weakly.	Spring tension too low; internal mechanism dirty or dry; tip loose.	Increase spring tension by rotating the cap clockwise. Disassemble, clean, and lubricate internal components. Ensure tip is securely tightened.
Tip breaks or dulls quickly.	Excessive force on inappropriate materials; tip not fully tightened.	Ensure the tip is securely tightened before use. Replace the tip if damaged. Avoid using on materials harder than the punch tip.
Tool feels stiff or gritty during operation.	Accumulated dirt or lack of lubrication.	Disassemble the punch, thoroughly clean all internal parts, and apply a light machine oil before reassembly.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model Number:** #78
- **Operation Mode:** Automatic
- **Material:** Alloy Steel
- **Color:** Solid Black
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 4.8 ounces (0.3 pounds)
- **Length:** Approximately 5.63 inches (14 cm)
- **Body Diameter:** 0.625 inches
- **Cutting/Pin Hole Diameter:** 0.08 inches
- **Style:** Heavy Duty Steel
- **Power Source:** Hand Powered
- **Included Components:** Unit, Instruction Guide
- **Batteries Required:** No

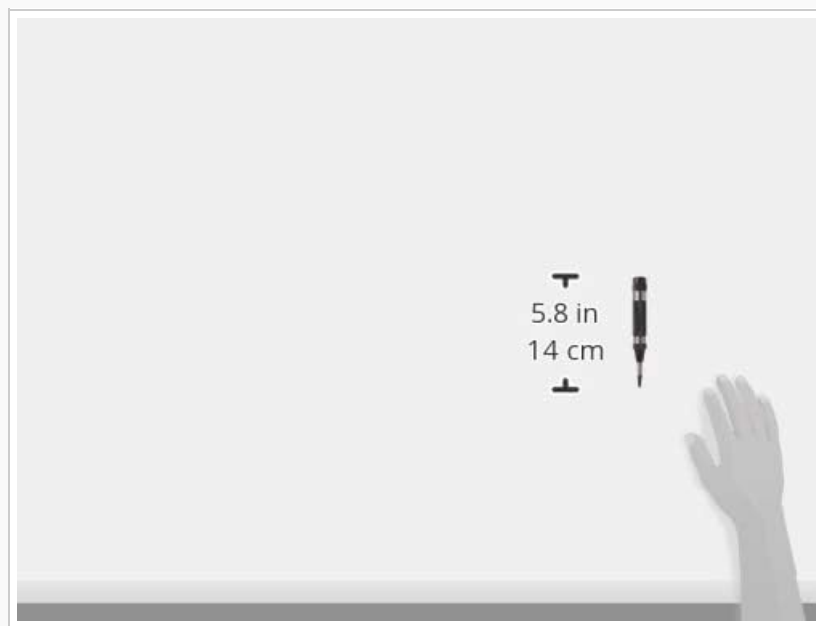


Figure 7: A diagram illustrating the approximate dimensions of the automatic center punch, showing a length of 5.8 inches (14 cm).

WARRANTY INFORMATION

General Tools products are manufactured to high-quality standards. For specific warranty details, please refer to the packaging or contact General Tools customer support directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase.

SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or to inquire about replacement parts, please visit the official General Tools website or contact their customer service department. Contact information can typically be found on the product packaging or the manufacturer's website.

