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Arrow Fastener RT188M

Arrow RT188M One-Handed Pop Rivet Gun Instruction Manual

Model: RT188M

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Arrow RT188M One-Handed Pop Rivet Gun is designed for various fastening tasks, including metal work, gutter repair, storm door installation, and automotive applications. Its lightweight steel body and comfortable handles facilitate easy operation. This manual provides instructions for safe and effective use of the tool.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

- Always wear appropriate eye protection when operating the rivet gun.
- Ensure the workpiece is securely clamped or held to prevent movement during riveting.
- Keep hands and fingers clear of the rivet gun jaws and nose piece during operation.
- Do not use the tool if it is damaged or malfunctioning.
- Store the tool in a dry, secure place, out of reach of children.
- Use only Arrow brand aluminum or steel rivets with this tool. Refer to the specifications for compatible rivet sizes.

- This tool is not recommended for use with 3/16" (5mm) diameter all-steel rivets.

3. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Arrow RT188M features a durable steel body, comfortable grip handles, and interchangeable nose grips for various rivet sizes. A handle lock is included for secure storage.





Figure 1: Arrow RT188M Rivet Gun with key dimensions (approximately 11 inches long and 5.5 inches wide) and color-coded nose piece guide for 3/32" (red), 5/32" (blue), 1/8" (green), and 3/16" (yellow) rivets.



Figure 2: The four color-coded interchangeable nose grips are stored on the tool for convenience.

4. SETUP

4.1 Selecting the Correct Nose Grip and Rivet

The RT188M comes with four color-coded nose grips, each corresponding to a specific rivet size. Match the nose grip to the diameter of the rivet you intend to use. The nose grips can be easily screwed in and out by hand without the need for additional tools.

- **Red:** For 3/32 inch (2mm) rivets.
- **Green:** For 1/8 inch (3mm) rivets.
- **Blue:** For 5/32 inch (4mm) rivets.
- **Yellow:** For 3/16 inch (5mm) rivets.



Figure 3: Detached nose pieces, ready for selection and installation.

4.2 Determining Rivet Length and Material Thickness

Choose a rivet length appropriate for the total thickness of the materials being joined. The rivet should extend slightly beyond the material thickness to allow for proper formation of the blind head.

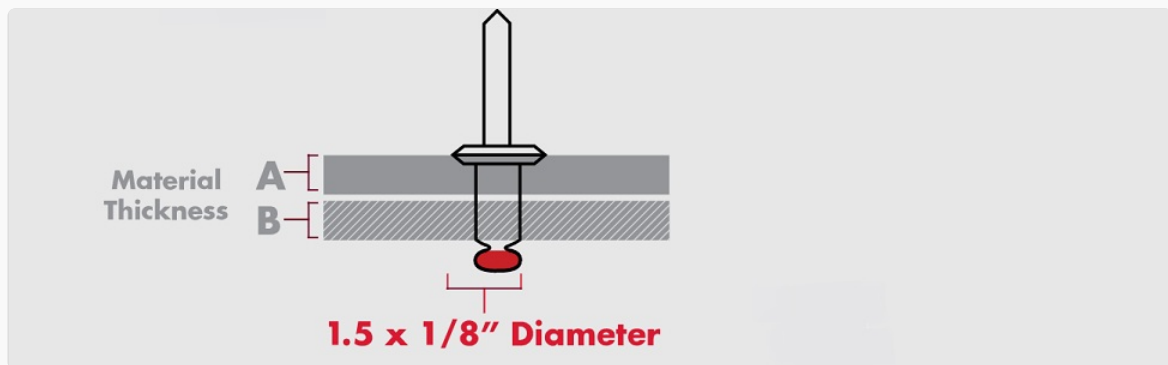


Figure 4: Diagram showing how to select the correct rivet length based on material thickness (A+B). The rivet diameter should be approximately 1.5 times the material thickness.

4.3 Loading a Rivet

1. Select the correct nose grip for your rivet and screw it onto the tool.
2. Insert the rivet mandrel (the pin) into the nose grip of the rivet gun until the rivet head rests against the nose piece.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1 Fastening with the Rivet Gun

1. Drill a hole through the materials to be joined, ensuring the hole diameter matches the rivet diameter.

2. Insert the loaded rivet into the drilled hole.
3. Position the rivet gun firmly against the workpiece, ensuring the rivet head is flush with the surface.
4. Squeeze the handles of the rivet gun together with a firm, steady motion. You may need to squeeze multiple times until the rivet mandrel snaps off.
5. Release the handles. The rivet is now set, and the mandrel will fall out of the tool.



Figure 5: Demonstrating the one-handed operation of the rivet gun to secure materials.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video 1: Official Arrow Fastener tutorial demonstrating how to use the Arrow RT188M One-Handed Rivet Tool, including changing nose pieces and setting rivets.

6. MAINTENANCE

6.1 Cleaning and Storage

- After each use, wipe down the tool with a clean, dry cloth to remove any dust or debris.
- Periodically check the nose grips and jaws for wear or damage. Replace if necessary.
- To store the tool, engage the handle lock by sliding the metal ring over the handles to keep them closed. This compacts the tool for easier storage.



Figure 6: The convenient handle lock keeps the tool closed for safe and compact storage.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Rivet mandrel does not snap off or rivet is not set properly.	Incorrect nose grip size; insufficient squeezing force; worn jaws.	Ensure correct nose grip is installed. Apply more force when squeezing. Inspect jaws for wear and replace if necessary.
Rivet gun jams.	Mandrel pieces stuck in jaws; using incorrect rivet type (e.g., all-steel 3/16").	Clear any stuck mandrel pieces from the jaws. Ensure you are using compatible rivets as specified in the manual.
Difficulty squeezing handles.	Using rivets that are too large or too hard for the tool's capacity.	Verify rivet size and material compatibility with the tool's specifications.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model:** RT188M
- **Brand:** Arrow Fastener
- **Material:** Alloy Steel body
- **Color:** Red
- **Power Source:** Hand Powered
- **Compatible Rivet Materials:** Aluminum, Steel (Note: Not recommended for 3/16" all-steel rivets)
- **Compatible Rivet Sizes (Diameter):**
 - 3/32 inch (2mm)
 - 1/8 inch (3mm)
 - 5/32 inch (4mm)
 - 3/16 inch (5mm)
- **Dimensions (Approximate):** 11 inches (length) x 5.5 inches (width)
- **Weight (Approximate):** 1.28 pounds
- **Features:** One-handed operation, comfortable easy-squeeze handles, four color-coded interchangeable nose grips, handle lock for storage, rust-resistant powder coating.

9. WARRANTY

The Arrow RT188M One-Handed Pop Rivet Gun is backed by a **Limited Lifetime Warranty**. For specific terms and conditions, please refer to the product packaging or contact Arrow Fastener customer support.





Figure 7: Product packaging indicating a Limited Lifetime Warranty.

10. SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or warranty claims regarding your Arrow RT188M One-Handed Pop Rivet Gun, please visit the official Arrow Fastener website or contact their customer service department. Contact information can typically be found on the product packaging or their website.