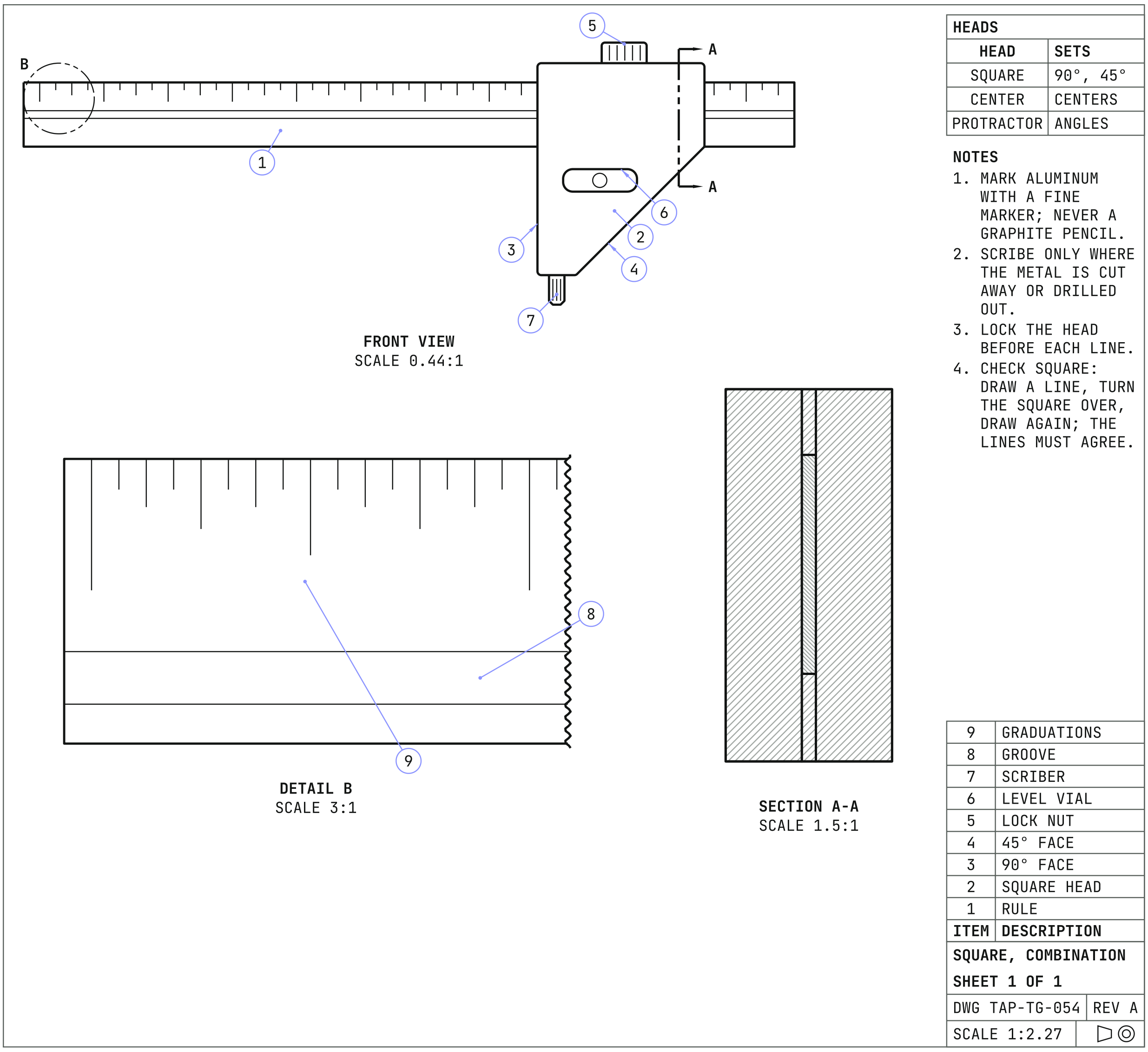
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The Aviation Point

Layout and Marking Tools: Squares, Scribes, Markers and Punches

Every part and every rivet row starts as a line on the sheet, and a wrong mark becomes a wrong hole.



Types

Type	Where it fits
Combination square	Square and 45° lines from an edge, depths and heights; the rule doubles as a straightedge.
Center head and protractor head	Center of a round bar; any angle from an edge.
Steel rule	Measuring and drawing straight lines; flexible rules follow a curved skin.
Dividers	Transfer a measurement and step off an even pitch.
Scribe	Fine lines on metal that will be cut away or drilled out.
Fine-tip marker	Every line on aluminum that stays on the part.
Prick punch	A light mark on a layout point.
Center punch, plain or automatic	A dimple that holds the drill point on the mark.

What to check when buying

Check	What to look for
Rule	Hardened steel, graduations engraved, not printed, and readable in fractions and decimals.
Head	A head that slides smoothly and locks without moving the rule.
Faces	Ground 90° and 45° faces with sharp corners; the square checks true when turned over.
Heads in the set	Square, center and protractor heads if you lay out angles and round parts.
Dividers	Hardened points and a fine adjusting screw that holds the setting.
Marker	Fine tip, ink that wipes off with solvent before primer.
Punches	Hardened, ground points; an automatic punch with an adjustable blow.

Educational reference only, not approved data. Always consult the applicable SRM, AMM, or AC 43.13-1B and your certifying authority.

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Accessories

Item	What it is for
Solvent and clean wipes	Remove layout lines before primer.
Spare scriber points	For the square head and the scribe.
Light oil	For the rule groove and the lock nut.
Case or rack	Keeps the rule straight and the points sharp.
Hole finders and edge markers	Lay out the rivet holes from an existing pattern.

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