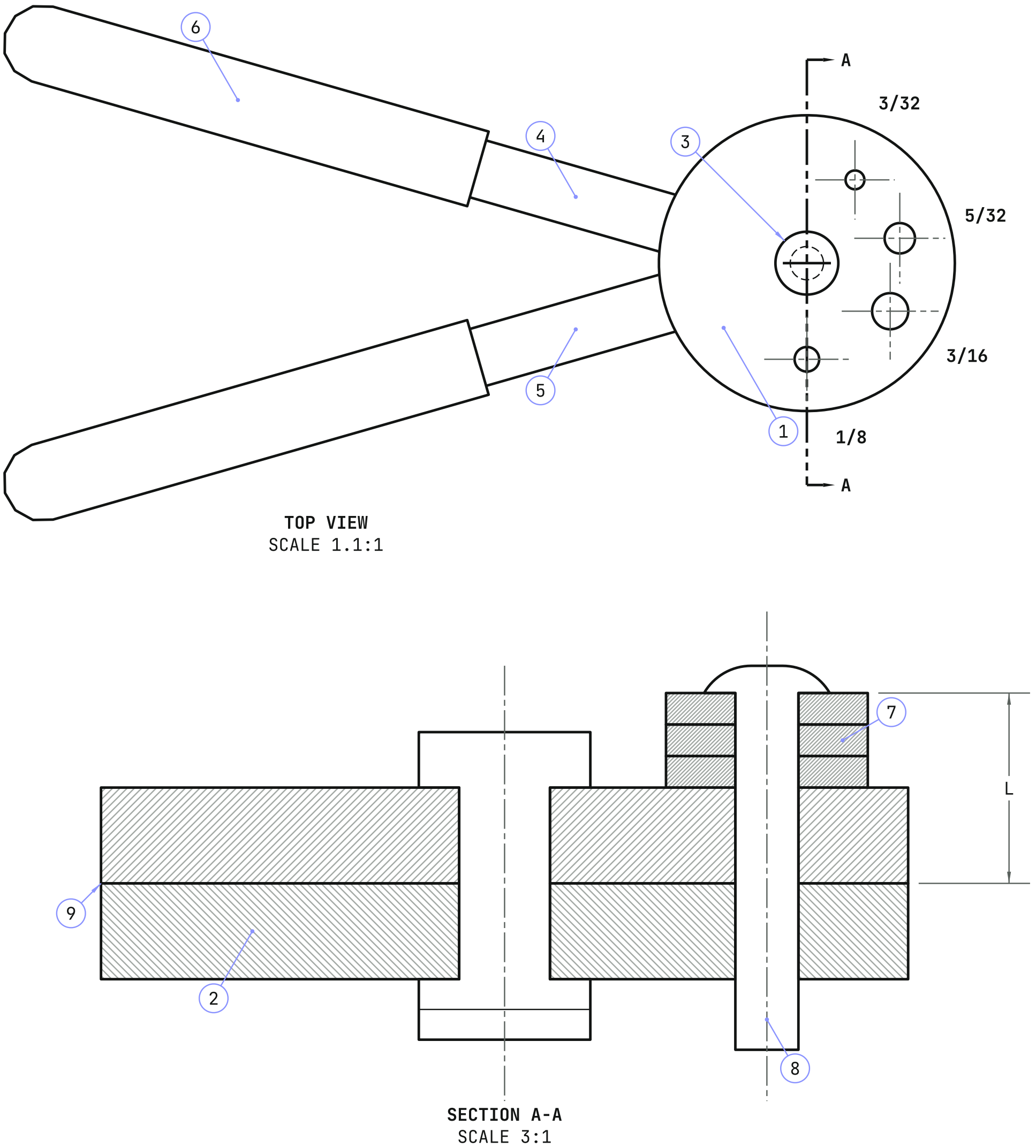
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Rivet Cutters: Rotary and Bench Cutters

When the rivet of the right length is not on the shelf, a rivet cutter trims a longer one.



RIVET LENGTH	
DASH	IN (MM)
-4	1/4 (6.4)
-5	5/16 (7.9)
-6	3/8 (9.5)
-7	7/16 (11.1)
-8	1/2 (12.7)
DASH = 1/16 IN	

NOTES
1. INCHES (MM).
2. L = GRIP + 1.5D.
3. SHIMS UNDER THE HEAD SET L.
4. ONE HOLE PER RIVET SIZE.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
9	SHEAR PLANE
8	RIVET
7	LENGTH SHIMS
6	GRIP
5	LOWER HANDLE
4	UPPER HANDLE
3	PIVOT SCREW
2	LOWER DISC
1	UPPER DISC

CUTTER, RIVET, ROTARY	
SHEET 1 OF 1	
DWG TAP-TG-057	REV A
SCALE 1.1:1	

Types

Type	Rivet sizes, inches (mm)	How it cuts
Rotary hand cutter	3/32 to 3/16 (2.4 to 4.8)	Rivet in its hole, shims under the head, squeezed like pliers; the discs turn and shear the shank
Bench cutter	3/32 to 3/16 (2.4 to 4.8) and up	Held in a vise, rivet in its hole, the handle pulled to shear the rivet
Diagonal cutting pliers	—	A substitute only when no cutter is at hand; the cut end is distorted and must be dressed

What to check when buying

Check	What to look for
Hole sizes	A hole for each rivet diameter you drive, each marked with its size
Length range	Covers the lengths you cut, with a chart on the tool
Shims or leaves	Attached to the head so they cannot get lost; steps you can count
Discs	Hardened, flat, tight on the pivot with no side play; a clean cut leaves no burr
Handles	A return spring and a grip that fits the hand; a bench cutter has a base for the vise
Spare parts	Replacement discs and shims sold for the model

 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
6 in steel scale	Measures the first cut rivet of a batch
Fine file or deburring tool	Dresses a rough cut end so it does not score the hole
Vise with soft jaws	Holds a bench cutter without marking it
Parts tray	Keeps cut rivets apart, marked by dash number
Light oil	A drop on the pivot and the discs

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