THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT

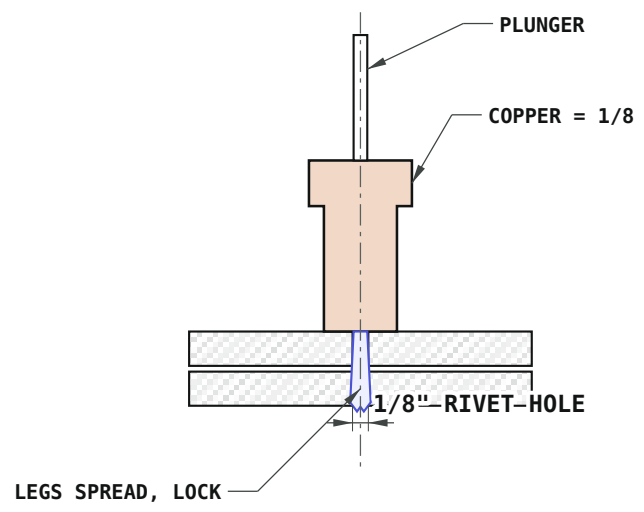
How to Use Cleco Pliers and Clecos

A cleco is a spring-loaded temporary fastener that holds drilled sheets aligned while you drill and rivet.

REFERENCE DRAWING — NOT APPROVED DATA · THE SRM ALWAYS GOVERNS

SECTION

CLECO HOLDING TWO SHEETS



PARTS

PART	WHAT IT DOES
Cleco pliers	Compress the spring to fit or remove
Grips	Cushioned, as listed
Cleco 1/8 in	Holds the sheets hole to hole

KEY DATA

ONE PAIR
"A special type of plier fits the six different sizes" (FAA Airframe Handbook).

BODY COLOUR
Silver 3/32 in, copper 1/8 in, black 5/32 in, brass 3/16 in: the rivet size, not the hole.

AIR TOOL
Saves the hand on big jobs; the FAA sources set no line for when.

NOTES

1. Dimensions in inches. Do not scale: the SRM sets the values.
2. For reference. The applicable manual always governs.

REVISIONS

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE
A	First issue	2026-10-30

The Aviation Point.			Structural repair reference
TITLE: Cleco and cleco pliers			
DRAWING NO.: TAP-DWG-118	REV: A	SCALE: NTS	SHEET: 1 OF 1
CODE: TAP-D-CLECO			
DO NOT SCALE DRAWING			

The fastener and the sizes

Item	Detail	Source
Parts of a cleco	Steel cylinder body, plunger on top, spring, a pair of step-cut locks, and a spreader bar	H-31 p. 4-29
Sizes	3/32, 1/8, 5/32, 3/16, 1/4 and 3/8 in diameter, size stamped on the fastener	H-31 p. 4-29
Colour	Colour coding for easy size recognition; see the cleco colour chart	H-31 p. 4-29
Pliers	One special type of plier fits all six sizes	H-31 p. 4-29
Hex nut and wing nut types	Higher clamp-up pressure: hex nut up to 300 lb with a hex nut runner; wing nut 0 to 300 lb, tightened by hand. A cleco hex nut also fits pneumatic cleco installers	H-31 p. 4-29

Typical mistakes

Mistake	What happens	Fix
Wrong size for the hole	A loose cleco lets the sheets move; one too large enlarges the hole	Match the stamp or colour to the hole
Not enough clecos	Sheets separate while drilling or riveting	The handbooks give no spacing; follow the SRM or work card
Chips left between sheets	Gap, poor fit	Remove clecos, clean, refit
Using a cleco as a rivet backup	Not its job	Temporary fastener only

Key points

- **Not approved data.** The SRM or work card says how many temporary fasteners to use.
- **Cleco colours.** The Handbook only says colours exist; read them from the chart.

SOURCES · FAA-H-8083-31B, AMT Handbook: Airframe, Chapter 4

SCAN · OPEN THIS GUIDE
theaviationpoint.com/standard-practices/tools/cleco-pliers/

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

THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT