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How to Use a Hole Finder

A hole finder (hole duplicator) copies the position of a hole in old structure onto a new patch or skin.

How it works

Part	Job
Bottom leg peg	Fits into the existing rivet hole
Top leg bushing	Guides the drill through the replacement sheet or patch
One per diameter	A separate duplicator must be used for each diameter of rivet

Typical mistakes

Mistake	What happens	Fix
Wrong peg diameter	Slack fit, holes drift	One finder for each rivet diameter
Drilling the whole patch from the finder alone	Pattern creeps	Fasten with clecos after the first two holes
Matching old holes that are elongated	Copies the error	Check old holes; follow the repair data for the pattern
Skipping deburring and sealing	Corrosion and poor fit	Deburr and protect before riveting

Key points

- **Not approved data.** The repair data gives rivet pattern, edge distance and pitch for a new patch; the finder only copies holes.
- **Hole sizes.** The tool does not choose the drill: see the drill size chart.

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

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theaviationpoint.com/standard-practices/tools/hole-finder/

 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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