

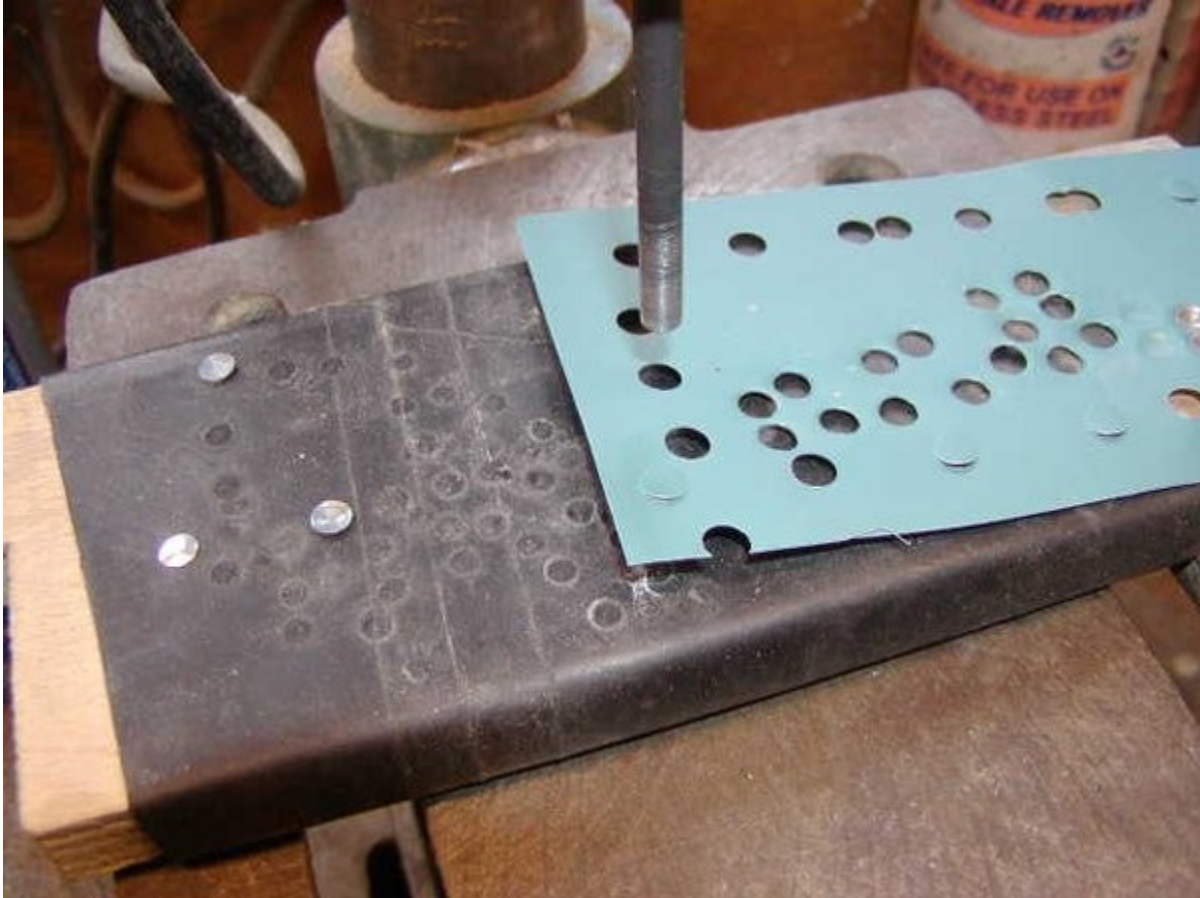
# How to make Domed Rivets

By Richard Crapp

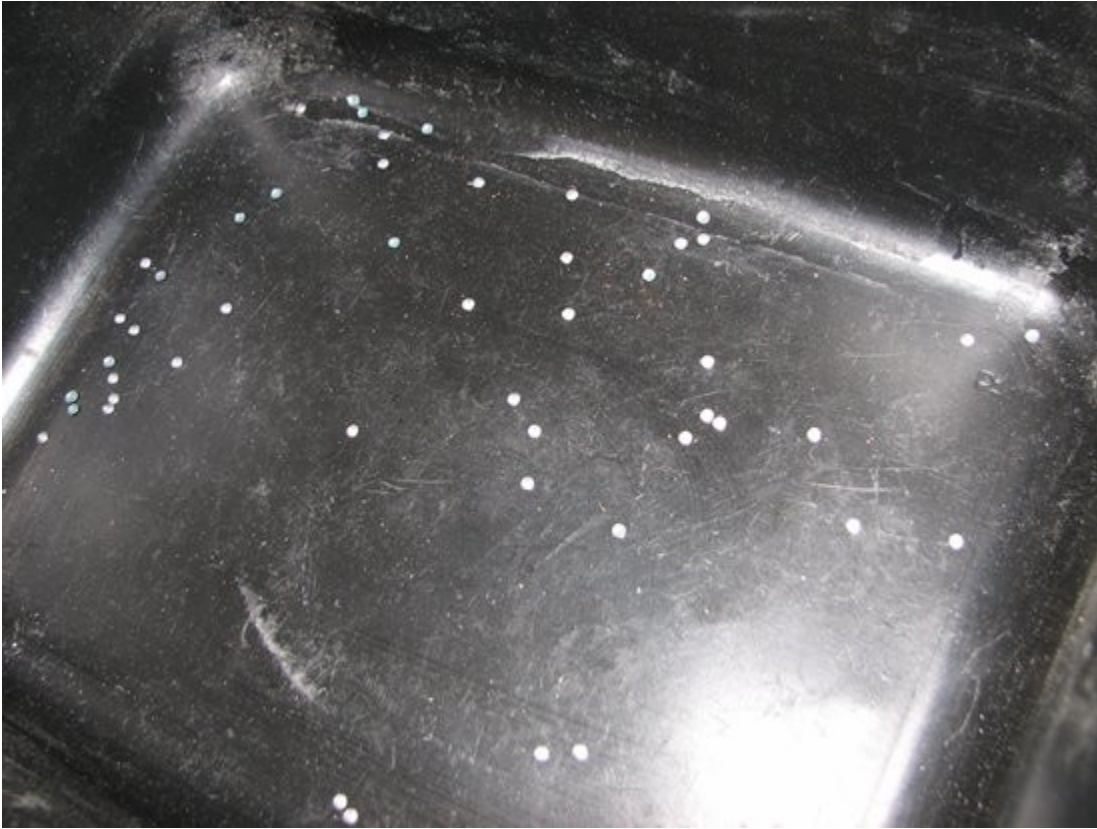
Find a piece of piano wire of the diameter you want your domed rivet to be, about 4" long. Grind a shallow dome on the end. DO NOT round the edges. Put it in your pillar drill rotating slowly. Now find some inner tube and cut approx a 6" square piece, Trucks still use tubes. If not, I have heard that a cutting mat works. Staple it to a piece of wood. I use hard balsa but cheap ply is OK.



If you want shiny unpainted rivets, polish a handy size piece of litho -thin or medium, thick before you start. If you rivets will be painted, stamp the printed side down. Bring the punch down in a snap. With a little practice you can here them snap out.



Collect them in a tin tray, plastic makes static and the little rascals are hard to pick up.



If it is a polished aircraft apply a dot of clear with a brush, I use Klass Kote as it is so tough and stays clear. If painted lay them on the primed surface and touch with a clean soldering iron.

Pick them up with a water damp kebab stick, line them up as you wish on the KK clear blob, or touch with the soldering iron if on primer.

Use a ruler to get them straight or cut a strip of thin ply for a curved a surface.. You can put marks or notches for the spacing.

Be aware that many aircraft used bigger rivets at the front or a combination of flush and domed. The Lancaster used 6 sizes front to back.

DO NOT make them to big!



