

Rivet Guns and Hot Glue Stations

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Hand Tools

A rivet gun (or pop riveter) joins sheet materials by pulling a rivet through pre-drilled holes, while a hot glue station is a bench spot for electric glue guns with a stand and spare sticks. Riveting gives strong metal joints; hot glue is the fast fix for prototypes and temporary assembly.

Key Features

- Rivet guns for 2.4, 3.2 and 4.8 mm rivets
- Twin-handle or pistol-grip action
- Hot glue guns from craft to industrial duty
- Stands with drip trays on glue stations
- Trigger feed and fast warm-up on modern guns

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Join sheet metal corners and brackets with rivets
- Attach handles, hinges and repair frames
- Glue cardboard, wood and plastic prototypes
- Bond materials quickly before screws set

Safe Operation

1. Drill holes to the rivet size and deburr the edges
2. Insert the rivet into the gun nosepiece and through the holes
3. Squeeze the handles until the stem snaps
4. Check the joint is tight and the stem is removed
5. For glue, preheat, apply in a bead and press within seconds

SAFETY NOTES

- Rivet stems are sharp - collect and bin them
- Wear eye protection when riveting near edges
- Hot glue burns seconds after contact - treat it with respect
- Keep glue guns in their stands when hot
- Unplug glue guns at the end of the day

Maintenance & Consumables

- Check the nosepiece for the right rivet size
- Clear glue drips from the gun tip while warm
- Lubricate moving parts of rivet guns lightly
- Replace glue sticks before they run out
- Store both in tool boxes with clear labels

Specification & Buying Notes

Get rivet guns with interchangeable nosepieces and a selection of rivet sizes and lengths. For glue, industrial guns with adjustable temperature and a good stand are worth the extra cost.