



## Steven Sherman Co-Vice President, Industrial Rivet

Steven Sherman, a fourth-generation Co-Vice President deeply rooted in the industry from childhood. With an impressive 26-year tenure, Steven has mastered every aspect, from hands-on roles like header operator, to product engineering, application engineering, sales, and management. He attended UCSB for engineering and business. Currently chair of the IFI Technical Committee and serving on the board.

# RIVETING SOLUTIONS: COLLABORATE WITH YOUR RIVET MANUFACTURER FOR SUPERIOR TOOL PERFORMANCE

Where rivets are concerned, a fastener distributor's goal is to provide customers with reliable permanent fastening solutions for sheet metal – helping them to achieve a flawless riveted joint in a single attempt. However, occasional mishaps do happen – and identifying the root cause of any riveting issues is crucial to minimizing downtime. That's not always easy, given the complexity of the riveting process. Is it the tool, the rivet, operating conditions, or lack of proper training? That's when having a reputable and knowledgeable manufacturer on your side becomes critical – one who can provide a comprehensive set of solutions along with expert guidance and support.

That's exactly what RivetKing® offers. With more than 110 years of experience behind us, we've found that starting with proper tool selection and regular maintenance can go a long way in minimizing disruptions. Here are a few best practices we share with our customers to help them ensure optimal tool performance.

### *Choosing The Right Partners: Sourcing And Support*

Start by choosing high-quality tools from reputable manufacturers that always have spare parts on hand for same-day shipment or and/or repair service to ensure tools can stay operational. These providers typically offer reliable products combined with a 1-2 year warranty and a high level of support. It's best to avoid MRO or DIY riveting



**BLIND RIVET TOOLS USED AT HIGH PRODUCTION VOLUME REQUIRE REGULAR CLEANING TO REMOVE DEBRIS**

tools as they may not have the longevity or ideal force and stroke ratios necessary for all rivet designs. Be sure to select the correct riveting tool for the specific rivet being used, taking rivet size and type into consideration.

Partnering with rivet manufacturers known for producing quality rivets is equally important. This practice helps ensure that the rivet does not contribute to any process performance issues. Be sure to choose a manufacturer who has the ability to test rivets in application onsite and in lab conditions with a load cell so if any concerns do arise, they can easily confirm their quality. The support provided by the rivet manufacturer can also include training for your sales teams, enabling them to understand the nuances of rivet assembly and build their knowledge over time so they can become experts.



**JAWS AND PUSHER SHOULD BE SHINING AND CLEAN WITH REGULAR SIMPLE MAINTENANCE. THE LEFT SET HAS NOT BEEN CLEANED, AND IS COVERED IN SMUT AND SWARF**

### *Safety First: Proper Use*

Purchasing tools with safety devices and strictly adhering to safety guidelines, such as wearing safety glasses and never pointing tools at other operators, creates a secure working environment. Tools should also only be used for their intended application, never used as hammers, for instance.

### *Collaboration: Configuring The Tool For Operation*

It's imperative to take measures to prevent tool damage, such as using balancer mounts and providing adequate support to prevent them from dropping. Maintaining clean, dry, and lubricated compressed air at 90 psi is also fundamental for maximizing tool efficiency. Equipping tools with reliable F-R-L units can further enhance performance as this filters, regulates, and lubricates the compressed air – preventing water and dust from getting into the air system and causing damage to the hydraulic seals and cylinders. Be sure to apply the right fittings, like couplings, with Teflon tape to prevent air leaks. Also check nose piece for the correct size, prior to enabling the operations.

Installing the first few rivets onsite should be considered a training activity, which is best rolled out among team members with the goal of streamlining the production process for enhanced efficiency. Manufacturers should provide the initial training with the OEM onsite, alongside the distributor. OEM Training should start with operators, then line leads, then finally, maintenance departments.

Part of training should include a cleaning routine. It is preferable for operators to perform this task, but maintenance departments may need to handle it in some environments due to concerns about trust or skill. In such cases, we recommend operator training provided by the team leader or the maintenance department. Experience shows that users who neglect proper cleaning and care for their tools will likely need to purchase replacements prematurely which would be a drain on a maintenance budget.



**MOST HIGH QUALITY TOOLS COME WITH A SPECIALIZED CLEANING KIT USED FOR REGULAR MAINTENANCE**