



**CLEVELAND
AIRCRAFT TOOL**
QUALITY TOOLS. FOR BUILDERS. BY BUILDERS.

10 considerations for tool buying

1. You should feel comfortable with the tools you're using.

Heck, you should LOVE the tools you're using. You'll be using the tools for hours at a time, for several years, on a project that's costing you tens of thousands of dollars.

2. A good set of tools account for around 5% of your total aircraft project.

When thinking about spending less on cheaper tools, remember 5% of a project you are pouring your time and money into is a worthwhile investment. We've talked to many builders at Oshkosh and on the phone who come up to us and say, "I can't believe I even wasted my time with XX tool! I bought yours and it works like a dream!"

3. There are 14,000 dimples needed in a flush rivet RV model. Use good quality dimple dies.

We could talk about geometry, springback technology, and provide a number of proof points here...[But check out one of many great discussions about our dimple dies on VAF.](#)

4. You get what you pay for. Ask anyone that's built an airplane.

See number 2 for a reminder. It's hard to take calls from customers who have paid money for cheap tools, and now have to spend the money twice.

5. Service and support should be part of the purchase.

Call your tool retailer. Ask them questions about the tools. Ask us what you should be asking, we can help you with that.

6. Your tool kit should be customizable.

Every builder, shop, and hobbyist have different needs. We start our kits with what everyone needs to get started from scratch. You may need more equipment down the road, maybe less up front. It's about your needs.

7. Get a buddy.

People who have built an airplane before have been through the exciting, and sometimes frustrating step of getting everything set up. If you don't know anyone in your area, use vansairforce.net, call the EAA. They are both great resources.

8. Free shipping is a marketing tactic.

Free shipping just means you're paying for it in your tool price. That's why we don't offer free shipping every day. If we do offer free shipping it's because we messed up, or we're willing to eat the cost.

9. Tank dies are not a myth.

We've been asked time and time again, "Does it really make a difference to use tank (or substructure) dimple dies on my airplane?" Well, as we build our airplanes, we use them. We like the way they work. We are perfectionists. We don't spend time developing and later selling a tool that we don't believe in. Period.

10. Enjoy the process.

Call us if you have questions. Mike and Annette are here to help you. Annette is a master at finding the best shipping to save you money and seems to know about everything, even chickens. She loves to help people, and will do everything in her power to make sure you get only what you need in your order.