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ME4031 MECHANICAL SYSTEM DESIGN  
FINAL REPORT**

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# 1. Introduction

Grommet tool kits are indispensable tools used in various industries and applications, including crafting, sewing, and industrial production. They enable the secure placement of grommets to reinforce materials, ensuring durability and preventing wear and tear around holes. From lightweight materials like fabric and leather to heavy-duty options like canvas and tarps, grommet tool kits provide a versatile solution for both small-scale DIY projects and large-scale industrial tasks.

The design of grommet tool kits incorporates multiple mechanical systems and components that simplify the process of punching holes and setting grommets with precision. These systems are carefully engineered to balance efficiency, ease of use, and adaptability to various material types and grommet sizes. Whether in crafting or industrial environments, grommet tool kits enhance productivity and ensure a professional-quality finish.

This report explores the mechanical system design of a grommet tool kit, focusing on its functionality, components, and user-centric features. It examines the challenges and opportunities encountered during the design process and highlights the critical role of mechanical engineering principles in optimizing performance. By analyzing the design from a mechanical systems perspective, this report aims to propose a grommet tool kit that addresses the diverse needs of end-users while maintaining durability and precision.

## 2. Identifying Opportunities

### 2.1 Grommet Tool Kit

A grommet tool kit is a specialized toolset designed for installing grommets, small rings made of metal or plastic, into materials such as fabric, leather, canvas, and vinyl. Grommets reinforce the edges of holes, preventing tearing, fraying, and structural damage, particularly in materials under stress, like banners, tarps, and curtains. They are widely used in industries such as upholstery, crafting, fashion, signage, and outdoor equipment manufacturing.

A typical grommet tool kit includes a hole punch tool for creating clean, circular holes, a grommet setter for securing the grommet, and a set of grommets in various sizes and materials. The hole punch pierces the material, while the grommet setter applies pressure to fix the grommet securely around the hole, creating a reinforced, professional-quality finish suitable for both functional and decorative applications.

The advantages of a grommet tool kit include increased material durability, a professional appearance, and ease of use. It simplifies the process of reinforcing holes compared to alternative methods like stitching, making it accessible for both professionals and DIY users. Grommet tool kits also provide long-lasting reinforcement, especially for outdoor or industrial materials subject to frequent tension and wear.

There are several types of grommet tool kits suited for different needs. Basic handheld kits are lightweight, affordable, and ideal for thin materials and occasional use. Heavy-duty grommet

presses offer consistent pressure and are suitable for thicker materials like leather and canvas. Electric and pneumatic grommet machines are designed for high-volume tasks, providing speed and efficiency for industrial applications. The choice of a grommet tool kit depends on material thickness, grommet size, frequency of use, and the need for precision, balancing functionality with user convenience.



Figure 1 (Grommet Tool Kit)

## 2.2 User Scenario

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the needs of those using a grommet tool kit, questions such as "Who is using it?", "Where are they using it?", "When are they using it?", "What is their goal?", and "What actions are required?" were considered. These questions aim to define the tool kit's functionality and purpose, and the answers are summarized in the table below.

<b>Who is using this grommet tool kit?</b>	<i>Crafters, DIY enthusiasts, upholstery professionals, and industrial workers.</i>
<b>Where are they using it?</b>	<i>In workshops, crafting studios, industrial production facilities, or home workspaces.</i>
<b>When are they using it?</b>	<i>During the application of grommets on various materials like fabric, leather, and canvas for reinforcement.</i>
<b>What is the goal?</b>	<i>To efficiently and securely attach grommets to prevent fraying or tearing, ensuring durability and a professional finish.</i>
<b>What must they do?</b>	<i>Punch precise holes in the material and set grommets accurately, with minimal physical effort.</i>

Table 1 (User Case Scenarios Table)

## 2.2 Types of Grommet Tool Kit

### 1) Basic Handheld Grommet Kit

Basic handheld grommet kits are lightweight, portable tools designed for small-scale grommeting tasks. These kits typically include a hole punch, grommet setter, and a small assortment of grommets, making them ideal for light-duty applications. Users manually punch a hole in the material and then use a setting tool to press the grommet into place, which reinforces the hole and prevents fraying or tearing around it.

Handheld grommet kits are commonly constructed from lightweight metals or durable plastic, allowing users to carry them easily and store them in small spaces. These kits are popular among DIY enthusiasts and crafters who work with softer materials, such as fabric, leather, or plastic. Due to their compact size, basic handheld grommet kits are easy to use for quick repairs or small projects that don't require industrial-grade strength.

These kits are widely used in crafting, home projects, and even for light upholstery work. Crafters often prefer these kits for their simplicity and affordability, while DIY enthusiasts use them for tasks like reinforcing fabric edges or adding grommets to bags and accessories. Basic handheld grommet kits offer a convenient, user-friendly solution for occasional grommet applications.



*Figure 2 (Basic Handheld Grommet Tool Kit)*

### 2) Heavy-Duty Grommet Press

Heavy-duty grommet presses are designed for tougher materials and high-frequency usage. These grommet tools use a lever mechanism to provide strong and consistent pressure, allowing users to set grommets in thick or durable materials like canvas, vinyl, and heavy fabrics. Typically made from steel, these presses are stable and robust, offering precise grommet setting without the need for excessive manual force.

Heavy-duty grommet presses are often found in workshops and industrial settings where users need to secure grommets in larger or thicker materials regularly. The lever mechanism reduces

user fatigue and increases efficiency, making it possible to complete high-volume tasks with ease. These presses can also accommodate multiple grommet sizes with interchangeable dies, adding to their versatility.

Due to their sturdy construction and ability to handle tough materials, heavy-duty grommet presses are commonly used by upholstery professionals, signage manufacturers, and industrial crafters. Their design prioritizes durability and consistent performance, making them a reliable choice for environments where grommet application is a frequent requirement.



*Figure 3 (Heavy-Duty Grommet Press)*

### **3) Electric Grommet Machine**

Electric grommet machines are advanced, motorized tools ideal for high-volume production environments. Powered by electricity, these machines automate the hole-punching and grommet-setting processes, minimizing manual effort and providing rapid, consistent results. With adjustable settings for different materials and grommet sizes, electric grommet machines offer unparalleled efficiency and precision.

These machines are typically made from heavy-duty metal and are designed for continuous use in commercial settings. Electric grommet machines are widely used in industries where speed and accuracy are crucial, such as banner production, curtain manufacturing, and industrial textiles. The automation provided by these machines significantly reduces production time and physical strain, allowing businesses to achieve high output with minimal labor.

Thanks to their speed and reliability, electric grommet machines are favored by commercial operations that require fast, uniform grommet application. While these machines represent a higher investment, they offer substantial long-term benefits for businesses focused on productivity and quality control.





*Figure 4 (Electric Grommet Machine)*

#### **4) Pneumatic Grommet Machine**

Pneumatic grommet machines utilize compressed air to deliver high-pressure grommet setting, suitable for large-scale industrial applications. These machines are highly efficient and require minimal physical effort, as the compressed air mechanism provides the force needed to punch holes and set grommets. Pneumatic grommet machines offer adjustable pressure settings, allowing for customization based on material thickness and grommet size.

Built with industrial-grade materials, pneumatic grommet machines are durable and capable of handling frequent, high-volume tasks. They are commonly used in environments where large-scale production is essential, such as in manufacturing heavy-duty tarps, sails, and upholstery. The precision and strength of pneumatic machines make them ideal for consistently producing high-quality results without manual intervention.

Pneumatic grommet machines are primarily used by businesses in sectors requiring quick, precise, and repetitive grommeting. While they require an air compressor, these machines deliver a smooth, efficient workflow that is well-suited for industrial operations focused on quality and high output.



*Figure 5 (Pneumatic Grommet Machine)*

### 5) Multi-Size Grommet Press Kit

The multi-size grommet press kit is a versatile option designed to handle different grommet sizes through a press mechanism with interchangeable dies. These kits allow users to set grommets of various dimensions by applying consistent pressure, making them suitable for a range of materials and applications. Constructed from durable metal, these kits are built for repeated use and offer ease of operation.

Multi-size grommet press kits are ideal for professionals who require flexibility, such as those working with different types of fabric, vinyl, leather, and plastic. By simply switching dies, users can adapt the tool for different projects, from small-scale crafts to medium-scale industrial tasks. The consistent pressure provided by the press mechanism ensures secure and accurate grommet placement across varying materials and thicknesses.

Due to their versatility, multi-size grommet press kits are widely used by upholstery professionals, signage manufacturers, and DIY users who need a single tool that can adapt to various tasks. These kits offer a balanced solution between portability and capability, making them a popular choice for both small workshops and medium-scale production.



*Figure 6 (Multi-Size Grommet Press Kit)*

## 3. Mind Mapping

There are four primary branches in this mind map for the grommet tool kit design: Performance, Durability, User-Friendliness, and Cost-Effectiveness. These categories have been determined based on customer expectations for a high-quality tool capable of delivering reliable results while being affordable and easy to use. Each design aspect focuses on balancing functionality, reliability, and cost efficiency.

### Grommet Tool Kit Features Overview

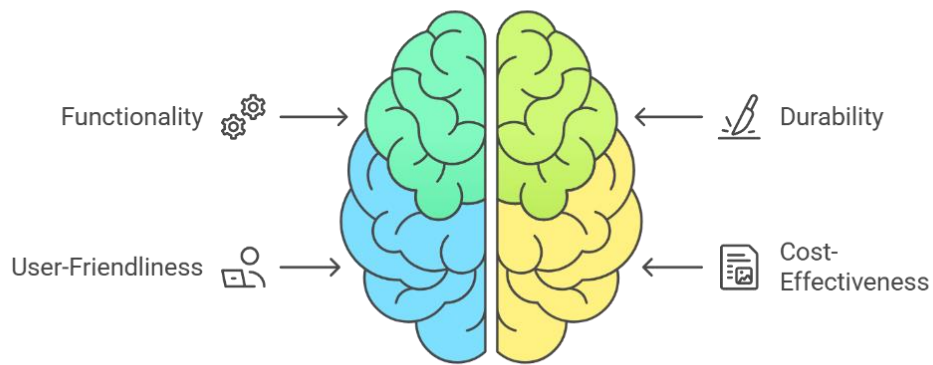


Figure 7 (grommet Tool Kit Features Overview)

#### **Performance:**

- Precision hole punching for clean and consistent results.
- Adjustable pressure mechanism for use with multiple material types.
- Consistent grommet placement accuracy.
- Versatility with multiple grommet sizes and material compatibility.

#### **Durability:**

- Use of corrosion-resistant materials like stainless steel.
- Reinforced structural components to handle repetitive use.
- Stable and reliable construction for both light and heavy-duty materials.
- Resistance to wear and tear with minimal performance degradation.

#### **User-Friendliness:**

- Ergonomic handle design to minimize user fatigue.
- Compact and lightweight for easy handling and storage.
- Clear user instructions and minimal operational steps.
- Non-slip grip for enhanced control and stability.

#### **Cost-Effectiveness:**

- Balanced material selection to ensure quality without excessive costs.
- Modular design for easy maintenance and part replacement.
- Long-lasting design to reduce frequent tool replacement.
- Simplified manufacturing process for cost reduction.

## **4. Clarifying Objectives**

To design an effective and user-friendly grommet tool kit, it was essential to define clear objectives based on user needs and practical applications. Using an objectives tree method, we organized these objectives into a hierarchical structure, beginning with broad goals and breaking them down into specific, actionable sub-objectives. This approach helped in systematically identifying and prioritizing features that would meet the diverse requirements of end-users.

### **Primary Objective**

The primary objective of this project is to create a versatile and durable grommet tool kit that addresses the needs of both DIY users and industrial professionals. This tool kit should facilitate easy and precise grommet setting for a variety of materials, ranging from lightweight fabrics to heavy-duty materials like canvas and leather.

### **Sub-Objectives**

#### **1. Ease of Use**

- Ensure that the tool is straightforward and intuitive for all users, from hobbyists to professionals.
- Design an ergonomic handle that reduces hand fatigue during extended use.
- Minimize the number of steps required for grommet application to enhance efficiency.

#### **2. Versatility**

- Develop a tool that can accommodate multiple grommet sizes without the need for extensive adjustments.
- Make the tool adaptable to a variety of materials, ensuring it can handle both thin fabrics and thick, rugged materials like leather or vinyl.
- Include interchangeable dies or an adjustable mechanism to support different grommet dimensions.

#### **3. Durability**

- Use high-quality materials, such as stainless steel or hardened plastic, that withstand frequent use and prevent rust or wear.
- Ensure that the tool can endure heavy-duty applications, especially in industrial settings, without compromising performance.
- Design for long-term use, aiming for a minimum lifecycle of 10,000 cycles of grommet setting.

#### **4. Precision and Consistency**

- Enable accurate hole punching and grommet setting, avoiding damage to the surrounding material.

- Design mechanisms that provide consistent pressure and alignment, ensuring each grommet is applied securely and uniformly.
- Include adjustable pressure settings to adapt to different material thicknesses, allowing users to achieve precise results.

## 5. Portability

- Create a compact and lightweight design for easy transport, especially for users who may need to carry the tool to various job sites.
- Ensure the tool kit includes organized storage for grommets and interchangeable parts, keeping everything contained and convenient for on-the-go use.

## 6. Affordability

- Balance quality and cost to produce a tool kit that is accessible to a wide range of users, from casual crafters to professional upholsterers.
- Optimize the design to reduce unnecessary complexity, focusing on essential features that deliver high value without inflating costs.

## Development Process

These objectives were defined through brainstorming sessions and user research. Mind maps were created to organize initial ideas, and feedback from potential users was integrated to refine the objectives tree. The structured hierarchy allowed us to identify which features were most important to users, ensuring that the design remains user-centered and practical.

By prioritizing these objectives, the design process was focused on creating a grommet tool kit that not only meets functional requirements but also enhances the user experience across different applications.

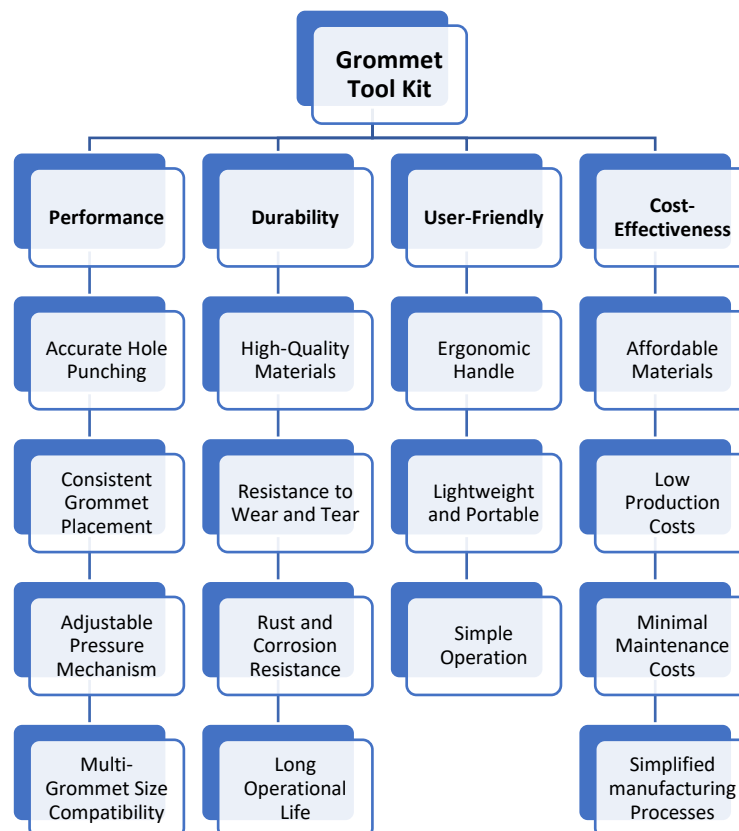


Figure 8 (Objective Tree of Grommet Tool Kit)

## 5. Establishing Functions

Each product involves core processes and auxiliary sub-processes that contribute to its primary functionality. Accurately identifying and analyzing these functions ensures that the design addresses user needs effectively and performs as intended. For the grommet tool kit, the function analysis method is used to systematically identify primary and sub-functions, enabling the selection of appropriate design components and features. To begin, the functions of the grommet tool kit are conceptualized as part of a closed system.



Figure 9 (The basic concept of a black box diagram for the grommet tool kit)

When further investigating the grommet tool kit as a system, additional inputs and outputs can be identified. The primary inputs include materials (fabric, leather, or other surfaces) and user effort, while the outputs consist of the reinforced material and securely placed grommets. Essential sub-processes like hole punching, grommet placement, and pressure adjustment are integrated into this design to ensure consistent performance.

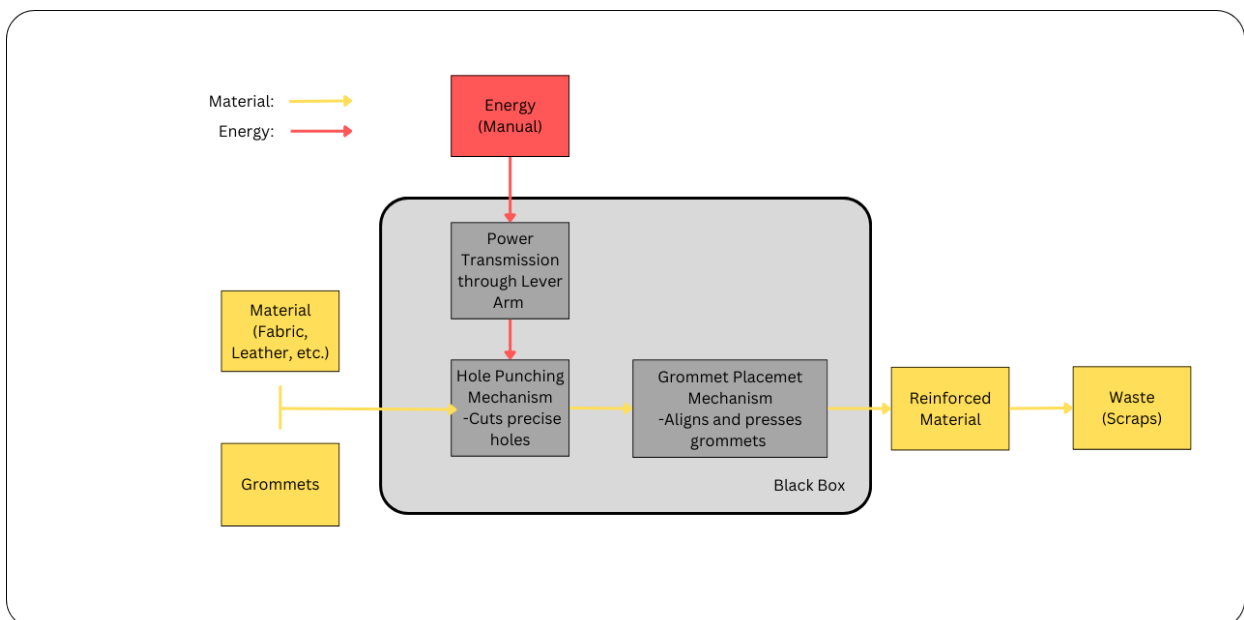


Figure 10 (The Detailed Function Tree Analysis with Transparent Black-Box)

### **1. Energy Sources:**

The grommet tool kit relies on user-applied manual force or mechanical leverage. In some cases, an electric or pneumatic mechanism may provide the energy required for high-pressure applications, transferring energy to punch holes and set grommets.

### **2. User Inputs:**

The user selects the appropriate grommet size and aligns the material with the tool. They apply pressure to the handle or activate a mechanical or electric mechanism to initiate the hole-punching and grommet-setting processes.

### **3. Hole Punching Process:**

The applied energy is directed to the punching mechanism, creating clean and precise holes in the material. Adjustable pressure settings ensure compatibility with various material types and thicknesses, such as fabric, leather, or canvas.

### **4. Grommet Placement:**

Once the hole is punched, the tool positions the grommet over the hole. The user or the machine then applies consistent pressure to press the grommet into place securely, reinforcing the material around the hole.

### **5. Material Outputs:**

The process produces a reinforced material with a securely attached grommet. Residual materials, such as small cutouts from hole punching, are discarded as waste.

### **6. Energy Conversion and Application:**

Manual or mechanical energy is converted into directed mechanical force, ensuring that the punching and setting processes are efficient and precise. This conversion minimizes user effort and enhances consistency.

### **7. Safety Features:**

Safety mechanisms may include slip-resistant handles, pressure-release systems to avoid overload, and a secure locking mechanism to stabilize the material during operation. These features ensure user safety and protect the tool from damage.

### **8. Waste Management:**

Residual material waste from the punching process is minimal but must be managed. Proper disposal ensures a clean workspace and prevents clogging or wear in the tool.

This breakdown illustrates the interconnected functions of the grommet tool kit. Its primary purpose is to transfer manual or mechanical energy into directed force, enabling hole punching and secure grommet placement. Signals from the user initiate and control the process, ensuring precise application.

The integration of adjustable pressure mechanisms, ergonomic handles, and safety features highlights a user-centered design approach, aiming for ease of use and minimal risk. For

electric or pneumatic models, energy conversion and thermal management further enhance efficiency, making the tool suitable for high-volume industrial use. By breaking down each stage, this function analysis ensures all user and operational requirements are addressed, resulting in a tool that is both effective and versatile.

## **6. Setting Requirements**

### **6.1 Performance Specifications Method for a Grommet Tool Kit**

Designing a grommet tool kit requires a structured approach to ensure the final product meets both functional and market demands. The Performance Specification Method defines the essential features, capabilities, and benchmarks that the tool must meet to fulfill user needs and maintain competitive standards. This approach emphasizes the alignment of technical functionality, user experience, and safety requirements with consumer expectations and industry norms.

#### **Purpose:**

The primary objective of this method is to develop a grommet tool kit that satisfies predefined performance criteria, ensuring its reliability, durability, and user-friendliness. These criteria are derived from market research, competitive analysis, and user feedback to ensure optimal performance across different use cases.

### **6.2 Descriptions of Responsible Units**

#### **1. Engineering:**

- Responsible for the technical design and structural integrity of the tool kit.
- Ensures that the hole-punching and grommet-setting mechanisms meet specified performance standards, such as accuracy and durability.

#### **2. Product Development:**

- Oversees the overall development process, ensuring that the tool kit moves seamlessly from concept to production.
- Aligns the design with market demands, emphasizing usability and cost-effectiveness.

#### **3. Design Team:**

- Focuses on the ergonomic and aesthetic aspects of the tool kit, ensuring a comfortable user experience while maintaining functionality.
- Develops a portable and compact design for ease of transportation and storage.

#### **4. Compliance Officer:**

- Ensures the grommet tool kit meets all regulatory standards, such as safety certifications and industry guidelines.
- Handles documentation and certifications required for various markets.

#### **5. Safety Officer:**



- Oversees the incorporation of safety features such as slip-resistant handles, stable mechanisms, and overload protection systems.
- Ensures compliance with safety regulations to minimize risks during use.

#### 6. Supply Chain:

- Manages the sourcing of high-quality materials such as hardened steel for durability and corrosion resistance.
- Balances cost efficiency with material quality to meet production schedules and budget constraints.

#### 7. Quality Assurance:

- Conducts rigorous testing to validate the performance of the tool, including pressure tests, material compatibility, and lifecycle durability.
- Ensures that the tool kit meets the company's reliability standards through inspection and evaluation processes.

#### 8. Marketing:

- Develops strategies to highlight the tool kit's features, such as versatility, durability, and ergonomic design, to the target audience.
- Creates campaigns to communicate the tool's value in DIY, professional, and industrial applications, driving product awareness and sales.

### 6.3 Performance Specification Table

Changes or Wishes	Requirements	Responsible
D	The tool must support grommet sizes ranging from 5mm to 20mm.	Engineering
D	Ergonomic handle design for comfortable and secure grip during extended use.	Design Team
D	The tool must handle materials up to 5mm thick, including leather, vinyl, and canvas.	Product Development
D	Must comply with international safety standards for hand tools.	Compliance Officer
D	Total weight should not exceed 1.5kg to maintain portability.	Design Team
W	Include interchangeable dies for multi-size grommet application.	Engineering
D	Durable construction using rust-resistant materials like stainless steel.	Supply Chain
D	Ensure minimal user effort to operate, with a maximum applied force of 10kg.	Engineering
D	The tool must withstand a minimum of 10,000 cycles of operation without failure.	Quality Assurance

W	Lightweight and compact design for ease of transportation and storage.	Design Team
D	The punching mechanism must create clean, precise holes without tearing the material.	Product Development
D	Safety features such as a non-slip handle and a locking mechanism for stability during operation.	Safety Officer
W	Include an organized storage case for grommets and dies.	Product Development
D	Ensure ease of cleaning and maintenance with minimal disassembly required.	Design Team
D	The tool must maintain consistent grommet placement accuracy within 1mm.	Engineering
W	Provide clear user instructions and safety guidelines.	Marketing
D	Tool lifespan of at least 10,000 operational cycles.	Engineering

Table 2 (Performance Specification Table)

Category	Specification	Changes or Wishes
<b>User Group</b>	Primary user group: DIY enthusiasts, craftsmen, and professional upholsterers.	D
	Low reliance on physical strength due to transmission mechanism on the arm.	D
	Secondary user group: hobbyists, small business owners, and textile workers.	W
<b>Market Size</b>	Target market size: Professional and DIY users, textile workshops, and schools.	D
	Expandable market: Industrial use for leatherwork and canvas reinforcement.	W
<b>Ergonomics</b>	Ergonomic handle to minimize strain and discomfort during extended use.	D
	Non-slip grip surface for enhanced control and stability.	D
	Designed for single-hand operation.	W
	Transmission arm to reduce required user effort by a factor of 3.	D
<b>Performance</b>	Compatible with grommet sizes from 5mm to 20mm.	D
	Clean and precise hole punching with $\pm 1$ mm accuracy.	D
	Maximum applied force $\leq 10$ kg for standard operations.	D
	Supports material thickness up to 5mm (fabric, leather, canvas).	D
	Interchangeable dies for multi-size compatibility.	W
<b>Environment</b>	Designed for both indoor and outdoor use.	W
	Corrosion-resistant materials suitable for humid conditions.	D
	Able to withstand accidental drops from 1.5m height.	D

<b>Life Span</b>	Tool lifespan of at least 10,000 operational cycles.	D
<b>Reliability</b>	Mean time before failure: 5 years under regular use.	D
<b>Manufacture</b>	Production volume range: 7,500 to 20,000 units per batch.	D
	Manufacturing cost: Targeted between £5.00 – £10.00 per unit.	D
<b>Disposal</b>	Designed with minimal parts for easy disassembly.	D
	Materials suitable for recycling (stainless steel and aluminum).	W
	User manual included for safe disposal and recycling guidance.	W

*Table 3 (Category-Performance Specification Table)*

#### **Legend:**

- **D:** Design Requirement (Mandatory)
- **W:** Wish (Optional Feature)

### **6.4 Performance Specification Discussion**

The performance specification table for the grommet tool kit clearly outlines the essential design and functional requirements necessary for developing a reliable and user-friendly tool. These specifications cover a range of critical factors, including durability, precision, safety, and material compatibility, ensuring the tool's effectiveness across both DIY and professional applications.

#### **Material and Durability Requirements**

The table specifies the use of rust-resistant materials such as stainless steel, emphasizing the need for long-term durability in both indoor and outdoor environments. The requirement for the tool to withstand 10,000 operational cycles without performance degradation further ensures long-term reliability. These features are essential for the tool's structural integrity and sustained performance over time, especially in demanding industrial applications.

#### **Ergonomics and Safety Considerations**

User comfort and safety are addressed through design features such as an ergonomic handle with a non-slip grip surface and a locking mechanism for operational stability. The inclusion of a maximum force requirement of 10 kg ensures that the tool remains easy to operate, reducing user fatigue. Additionally, the specification for compliance with international safety standards ensures that the design adheres to widely accepted regulations, enhancing user trust and minimizing risk.

#### **Versatility and Precision**

The tool's versatility is reflected in its capacity to handle grommet sizes ranging from 5mm to 20mm and material thicknesses up to 5mm, including fabric, leather, vinyl, and canvas. The optional interchangeable dies contribute to this flexibility, making the tool suitable for a wide range of applications. The requirement for 1mm placement accuracy ensures professional-grade precision, which is critical for tasks requiring clean, consistent results.

## Portability and Ease of Use

Portability is addressed through a lightweight design criterion, with the total tool weight not exceeding 1.5 kg. This ensures the tool can be easily transported and used in various work environments without compromising performance. Furthermore, the specification for minimal disassembly for cleaning emphasizes convenience and ease of maintenance.

## Optional Features and Enhancements

Several optional features ("Wishes") listed in the table, such as the **organized storage case** and **interchangeable dies**, could significantly enhance the user experience. While these are not mandatory design requirements, they contribute to the overall convenience and user-friendliness of the tool, making it more appealing to both professional and non-professional users.

### 6.4 User Needs at the Concept Phase

Category	Description
Physiological Needs	Create secure and reinforced holes in materials such as fabric, leather, and canvas with minimal physical effort; ensure a stable and consistent punching mechanism; minimize user fatigue through ergonomic handle design.
Social Needs	Clean, professional-looking reinforced edges suitable for crafts, upholstery, and industrial use; aesthetically designed to look professional in workshops and home toolkits.
Psychological Needs	Provide a sense of confidence and control with precise hole punching and grommet placement; empower users to complete DIY projects independently; satisfaction from working with a professional-grade tool.
Technical Needs	Support multiple grommet sizes (5mm to 20mm); handle materials up to 5mm thick; include a durable punching mechanism with minimal applied force; corrosion-resistant materials for long-term use; maintain accuracy within 1mm.
Time Needs	Designed for quick and efficient operation, reducing manual effort and time spent on repetitive tasks; suitable for both DIY users and professional environments where speed matters.
Resources Exchanged	Designed to balance cost and quality, aiming for an affordable price point with premium performance features; expected price based on industry standards and material costs, competitive with similar tools in the market.

Table 4 (User Needs Table)

## **7. Determining Characteristics**

The Quality Function Deployment (QFD) approach was employed to determine the key characteristics of the grommet tool kit. This method helped translate user needs and design objectives into measurable engineering characteristics, ensuring the product delivers both functionality and user satisfaction. By analyzing the demands of DIY users and industrial professionals, the following characteristics were identified as critical to the design and performance of the grommet tool kit.

### **7.1 Key Characteristics**

#### **1. Lightweight Design:**

Customers prioritize a lightweight tool for portability and ease of use. This directly relates to the material selection, where lightweight but durable materials (e.g., aluminum or hardened plastic) have been chosen to reduce the tool's weight without compromising its structural integrity. This relationship is assigned a high importance rating due to its direct impact on user satisfaction.

#### **2. Durability in Harsh Environments:**

Users working with heavy-duty materials such as leather or canvas demand a tool that can withstand frequent use. This requirement ties closely to the selection of corrosion-resistant materials (e.g., stainless steel) and the construction of robust mechanisms that endure repeated operations. These linkages are rated highly important to ensure reliability and long-term performance.

#### **3. Precision and Accuracy:**

The need for clean, precise hole punching and secure grommet placement links to mechanical alignment systems and adjustable pressure mechanisms. These features must deliver consistent results across various material types and grommet sizes, earning them a high priority rating in the QFD matrix.

#### **4. Ergonomics and Usability:**

Ergonomic handles and minimal effort operation are essential for reducing user fatigue. This requirement connects to the design of the grip surface and the lever system for pressure application. While these aspects are not as critical as durability, they are assigned a medium importance rating because they enhance the overall user experience.

#### **5. Versatility:**

Customers expect the tool to work with multiple grommet sizes and material types. This requirement is addressed through the inclusion of interchangeable dies and an adjustable mechanism, both of which are given high priority due to their direct impact on functionality and market appeal.

## **6. Safety Features:**

Safety requirements, such as a non-slip handle and locking mechanism, tie into stability during operation and user control systems. These features receive a medium importance rating as they contribute to risk mitigation and ease of use.

## **7. Cost-Effectiveness:**

While durability and precision are critical, affordability remains important to appeal to a broader market. The simplification of manufacturing processes and the use of cost-efficient materials are assigned a low-to-medium importance rating, ensuring that cost savings do not detract from performance or reliability.

## **Insights from QFD Analysis**

By systematically mapping customer needs to engineering characteristics:

- Lightweight Design and Durability emerge as the most critical areas, driving decisions around material selection and structural robustness.
- Precision and Versatility are closely linked to mechanical features, such as adjustable mechanisms and interchangeable dies, ensuring functionality for diverse applications.
- Safety and usability enhancements, such as ergonomic handles and stability features, play a significant supporting role in improving user experience.

The QFD methodology ensures that every decision in the grommet tool kit's design aligns with practical objectives and user expectations. By focusing on high-priority linkages, the design team can deliver a product that balances durability, performance, and cost-effectiveness, meeting the needs of both DIY users and professionals.

## 7.2 House of Quality

## QFD: House of Quality

Project:

Revision:

Date:

Correlations	
Positive	+
Negative	-
No Correlation	

Relationships	
Strong	●
Moderate	○
Weak	▽

Direction of Improvement	
Maximize	▲
Target	◇
Minimize	▼

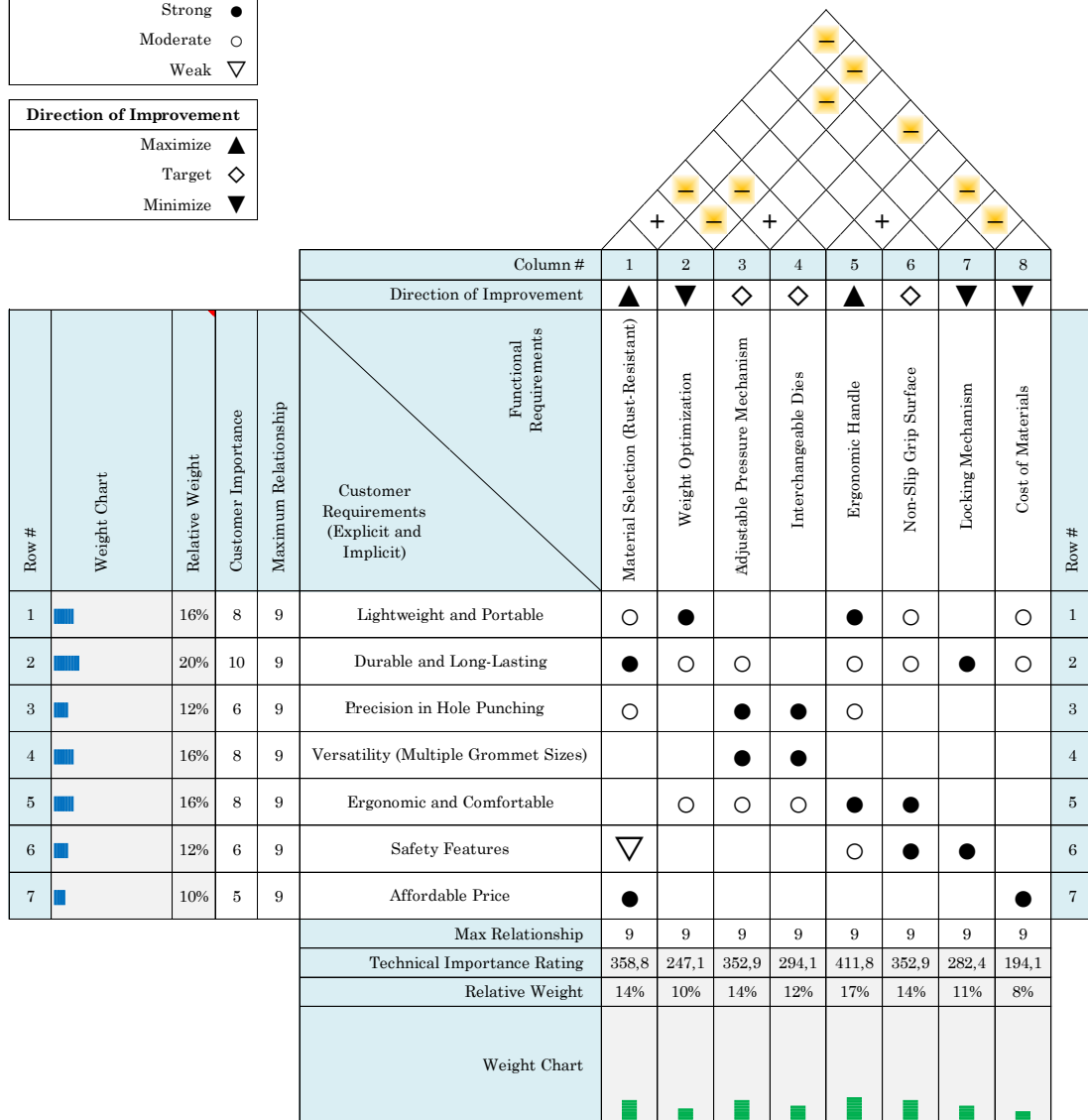


Figure 11 (House of Quality Analysis for Grommet Tool Kit)

## 8. Generating Alternatives

### 8.1 Morphological Chart

	SUBFUNCTION	SUBSOLUTIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	<b>Hole Punching Mechanism</b>	Manual Punching Arm	Spring-loaded Arm	Rotary Blade Punch	Electric Punch System	Pneumatic Punch System
2	<b>Grommet Placement Mechanism</b>	Manual Pressing Arm	Ratchet Mechanism	Hydraulic System	Magnetic Alignment	Pneumatic Pressing
3	<b>Transmission Mechanism</b>	Single-Lever Arm	Double-Lever Arm	Gear-Driven System	Cam & Follower	Rack & Pinion
4	<b>Handle Design</b>	Basic Rubber Grip	Molded Ergonomic Grip	Foam-Padded Grip	Adjustable Handle	Angled Grip
5	<b>Material Compatibility</b>	Fixed Size Punch	Interchangeable Dies	Adjustable Diameter Punch	Reinforced Dies	Adaptive Multi-Layer Punch
6	<b>Material Selection</b>	Stainless Steel	Galvanized Steel	Aluminum Alloy	Reinforced Polymer	Titanium-Coated Steel
7	<b>Safety Features</b>	Locking Mechanism	Non-slip Grip	Pressure Release Stop	Auto-Reset Mechanism	Force Limiter Mechanism
8	<b>Waste Management</b>	Manual Cleaning	Scrap Collection Tray	Auto Waste Ejection	Removable Waste Catcher	Built-in Debris Compartment
9	<b>Portability &amp; Storage</b>	Compact Design	Foldable Handle	Detachable Parts	Carrying Case	Modular Storage System

Table 5 (Morphological Chart)

### 8.2 Explanation of Sub-Functions for the Grommet Tool Kit

#### 1. Hole Punching Mechanism

The hole punching mechanism is fundamental to the core functionality of the grommet tool kit, ensuring precise and clean holes in various materials. Options for this sub-function include a manual punching lever, which offers simplicity for standard tasks, while a spring-loaded punching arm reduces the physical effort required for repetitive use. For industrial applications, rotary blade punches and pneumatic punching systems provide enhanced precision and power. An electric punch can further automate the process for high-volume tasks.

#### 2. Grommet Placement and Securing



The grommet placement mechanism ensures the grommet is aligned and pressed securely into the punched hole. A manual pressing arm provides direct control for smaller projects, while a ratchet system offers gradual, controlled pressure for improved accuracy with larger grommets. Hydraulic pressing systems can be considered for heavy-duty use where consistent pressure is critical. Magnetic positioning systems can assist with alignment for maximum precision during placement.

### **3. Transmission Mechanism (Force Amplification)**

The transmission mechanism reduces the physical effort needed to operate the tool. A single-lever arm provides basic mechanical advantage, while a double-lever arm enhances force distribution for less strain on the user. More advanced options include a gear-driven transmission for smoother operation and a cam and follower system to optimize pressure distribution. Rack and pinion mechanisms are also suitable for high-force applications with minimal manual effort.

### **4. Handle Design (Ergonomics)**

The handle design directly influences user comfort and tool control during operation. A basic rubber grip offers simplicity, while a molded ergonomic handle is designed for extended use with reduced hand fatigue. Foam-padded grips further minimize strain, while an adjustable handle allows customization based on hand size and usage style. An angled handle design helps reduce wrist strain, improving overall ergonomics.

### **5. Material Compatibility**

The material compatibility sub-function ensures the tool can handle a variety of materials without damage. A fixed-size punch works for standard materials, while interchangeable dies provide versatility for multiple grommet sizes. An adjustable diameter punch offers flexibility without needing die swaps, while reinforced dies support thick materials like leather and canvas. An adaptive multi-layer punch can handle multiple layers of fabric at once, improving efficiency for specific use cases.

### **6. Material Selection**

Material selection is critical for durability and performance. Stainless steel is highly resistant to corrosion, while galvanized steel offers a balance of durability and affordability. Aluminum alloy provides a lightweight yet durable alternative suitable for portable designs. Reinforced polymer reduces cost while maintaining adequate strength. Titanium-coated steel combines high strength and wear resistance, making it ideal for heavy-duty use.

### **7. Safety Features**

Safety features are essential to ensure secure operation. A locking mechanism prevents accidental activation, while a non-slip grip minimizes handling risks. Pressure release stops can prevent over-pressing the material, and an automatic return mechanism resets the tool after each cycle, reducing repetitive strain. A force limiter mechanism can further protect the user by capping the maximum applied pressure.

### **8. Waste Management**

Efficient waste management ensures a clean workspace and efficient tool use. Manual cleaning requires periodic user intervention, while a scrap collection tray can capture waste

material directly. An automatic waste ejection system enhances convenience for high-volume work, while a removable waste catcher allows for quick and easy disposal. A built-in debris compartment provides an integrated solution for both portability and cleanliness.

## 9. Portability and Storage

Portability and storage solutions ensure the tool is easy to transport and organize. A compact design minimizes space requirements, while a foldable handle improves portability for smaller workspaces. Detachable parts make the tool modular and easier to store. A carrying case keeps all parts and accessories organized. A modular storage system can offer customizable compartments for different grommet sizes and dies.

### Summary of Morphological Analysis Process:

The grommet tool kit design involves multiple critical sub-functions, each with several possible sub-solutions. By exploring alternatives for each function, a diverse range of design concepts can be generated. The next steps involve scoring these alternatives based on performance criteria such as efficiency, durability, cost, and ease of use, allowing the selection of the most optimal design combination for the project.

### 8.3 Morphological Analysis for Each Alternative

#### Alternative 1: Basic Handheld Grommet Tool Kit

	SUBFUNCTION	SUBSOLUTIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	<b>Hole Punching Mechanism</b>	Manual Punching Arm	Spring-loaded Arm	Rotary Blade Punch	Electric Punch System	Pneumatic Punch System
2	<b>Grommet Placement Mechanism</b>	Manual Pressing Arm	Ratchet Mechanism	Hydraulic System	Magnetic Alignment	Pneumatic Pressing
3	<b>Transmission Mechanism</b>	Single-Lever Arm	Double-Lever Arm	Gear-Driven System	Cam & Follower	Rack & Pinion
4	<b>Handle Design</b>	Basic Rubber Grip	Molded Ergonomic Grip	Foam-Padded Grip	Adjustable Handle	Angled Grip
5	<b>Material Compatibility</b>	Fixed Size Punch	Interchangeable Dies	Adjustable Diameter Punch	Reinforced Dies	Adaptive Multi-Layer Punch
6	<b>Material Selection</b>	Stainless Steel	Galvanized Steel	Aluminum Alloy	Reinforced Polymer	Titanium-Coated Steel
7	<b>Safety Features</b>	Locking Mechanism	Non-slip Grip	Pressure Release Stop	Auto-Reset Mechanism	Force Limiter Mechanism
8	<b>Waste Management</b>	Manual Cleaning	Scrap Collection Tray	Auto Waste Ejection	Removable Waste Catcher	Built-in Debris Compartment
9	<b>Portability &amp; Storage</b>	Compact Design	Foldable Handle	Detachable Parts	Carrying Case	Modular Storage System

Table 6 (Morphological Chart for Alternative 1)

This Basic Handheld Grommet Tool Kit is designed for medium-duty use, emphasizing durability, precision, and ease of operation for both professional and DIY users. It has been

carefully engineered to meet the demands of various tasks such as fabric reinforcement, leatherworking, and canvas applications.

The hole punching mechanism uses a manual punching arm, chosen for its simplicity and direct control. This option provides clean and precise holes while maintaining the tool's lightweight and easy-to-operate design, making it ideal for both beginners and experienced users.

To secure the grommet after the hole is punched, the kit utilizes a manual pressing arm, ensuring precise placement without requiring complex adjustments. This mechanism offers a balance of control and stability, preventing the material from slipping during use.

The transmission mechanism features a single-lever arm, designed for efficient force application while keeping the tool lightweight and reducing physical strain on the user.

For user comfort, the handle design incorporates a basic rubber grip to ensure non-slip handling while keeping the tool cost-effective and straightforward for general use.

The tool is compatible with various material types through a fixed-size punch system, ideal for standard grommet sizes commonly used in crafting, upholstery, and light industrial tasks.

Constructed from stainless steel, the tool provides superior corrosion resistance, making it suitable for both indoor and outdoor environments. This material choice also ensures durability and minimal maintenance over the tool's lifespan.

Safety features include a locking mechanism to prevent accidental operation during transport or when not in use, enhancing user safety during both operation and storage.

For waste management, the tool employs a manual cleaning system where users can easily clear material residues after use, keeping the workspace clean.

The kit's portability and storage are optimized through a compact design, ensuring the tool can be stored conveniently without occupying excessive space, making it ideal for both workshops and portable tool kits.

## Alternative 2: Heavy-Duty Grommet Press

	SUBFUNCTION	SUBSOLUTIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	<b>Hole Punching Mechanism</b>	Manual Punching Arm	Spring-loaded Arm	Rotary Blade Punch	Electric Punch System	Pneumatic Punch System
2	<b>Grommet Placement Mechanism</b>	Manual Pressing Arm	Ratchet Mechanism	Hydraulic System	Magnetic Alignment	Pneumatic Pressing
3	<b>Transmission Mechanism</b>	Single-Lever Arm	Double-Lever Arm	Gear-Driven System	Cam & Follower	Rack & Pinion
4	<b>Handle Design</b>	Basic Rubber Grip	Molded Ergonomic Grip	Foam-Padded Grip	Adjustable Handle	Angled Grip
5	<b>Material Compatibility</b>	Fixed Size Punch	Interchangeable Dies	Adjustable Diameter	Reinforced Dies	Adaptive Multi-Layer

				Punch		Punch
6	<b>Material Selection</b>	Stainless Steel	Galvanized Steel	Aluminum Alloy	Reinforced Polymer	Titanium-Coated Steel
7	<b>Safety Features</b>	Locking Mechanism	Non-slip Grip	Pressure Release Stop	Auto-Reset Mechanism	Force Limiter Mechanism
8	<b>Waste Management</b>	Manual Cleaning	Scrap Collection Tray	Auto Waste Ejection	Removable Waste Catcher	Built-in Debris Compartment
9	<b>Portability &amp; Storage</b>	Compact Design	Foldable Handle	Detachable Parts	Carrying Case	Modular Storage System

Table 7 (Morphological Chart for Alternative 2)

The Heavy-Duty Grommet Press is specifically engineered for industrial-grade tasks where frequent use and tough materials demand a durable, high-performance tool. This alternative is ideal for professional applications such as upholstery, canvas work, and industrial fabric reinforcement where precision, stability, and minimal user fatigue are essential.

The hole punching mechanism uses a spring-loaded arm, providing strong, consistent pressure while minimizing the physical effort required. This mechanism ensures clean and precise holes, even in thicker materials like canvas, vinyl, and multi-layered fabrics.

The grommet placement mechanism features a ratchet mechanism, which allows for gradual and controlled pressure application. This design ensures secure grommet attachment with minimal risk of material damage, making it ideal for repeated heavy-duty use.

The transmission mechanism relies on a double-lever arm, which enhances force distribution, allowing the tool to apply greater pressure with less manual effort. This feature makes it easier to handle tough materials without compromising performance.

The handle design includes a molded ergonomic grip, reducing hand strain during prolonged use while offering enhanced control. This design is particularly beneficial for professional settings where high-volume grommet application is required.

For material compatibility, the press includes interchangeable dies, allowing the user to switch between multiple grommet sizes easily. This versatility makes it suitable for various project needs, from small crafting jobs to heavy-duty textile work.

Constructed from galvanized steel, the press offers exceptional corrosion resistance and structural durability, ensuring reliable performance in demanding workshop environments.

Safety features include a non-slip grip and a locking mechanism, which prevent accidental use while providing added stability during operation.

The waste management system is equipped with a scrap collection tray, allowing efficient removal of residual material during high-volume tasks, maintaining a clean workspace.

For portability and storage, the heavy-duty grommet press incorporates a detachable parts system, making it easier to disassemble and store components when not in use while also simplifying maintenance.

### Alternative 3: Electric Grommet Machine

	SUBFUNCTION	SUBSOLUTIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	<b>Hole Punching Mechanism</b>	Manual Punching Arm	Spring-loaded Arm	Rotary Blade Punch	Electric Punch System	Pneumatic Punch System
2	<b>Grommet Placement Mechanism</b>	Manual Pressing Arm	Ratchet Mechanism	Hydraulic System	Magnetic Alignment	Pneumatic Pressing
3	<b>Transmission Mechanism</b>	Single-Lever Arm	Double-Lever Arm	Gear-Driven System	Cam & Follower	Rack & Pinion
4	<b>Handle Design</b>	Basic Rubber Grip	Molded Ergonomic Grip	Foam-Padded Grip	Adjustable Handle	Angled Grip
5	<b>Material Compatibility</b>	Fixed Size Punch	Interchangeable Dies	Adjustable Diameter Punch	Reinforced Dies	Adaptive Multi-Layer Punch
6	<b>Material Selection</b>	Stainless Steel	Galvanized Steel	Aluminum Alloy	Reinforced Polymer	Titanium-Coated Steel
7	<b>Safety Features</b>	Locking Mechanism	Non-slip Grip	Pressure Release Stop	Auto-Reset Mechanism	Force Limiter Mechanism
8	<b>Waste Management</b>	Manual Cleaning	Scrap Collection Tray	Auto Waste Ejection	Removable Waste Catcher	Built-in Debris Compartment
9	<b>Portability &amp; Storage</b>	Compact Design	Foldable Handle	Detachable Parts	Carrying Case	Modular Storage System

Table 8 (Morphological Chart for Alternative 3)

The Electric Grommet Machine is a high-efficiency, motorized tool designed for high-volume production environments where speed, precision, and minimal manual effort are crucial. It automates both the hole punching and grommet placement processes, making it ideal for industries such as banner production, curtain manufacturing, and industrial textiles.

The hole punching mechanism uses an electric punch system powered by a motor, providing consistent force and reducing operator fatigue. This automated solution ensures clean and accurate holes across various material types, including thick fabrics and reinforced textiles.

The grommet placement mechanism employs a hydraulic system, delivering uniform pressure during grommet setting. This ensures a secure and reliable attachment, making it suitable for continuous operation in industrial production lines.

The transmission mechanism is a gear-driven system, which converts motor power into controlled mechanical force, ensuring consistent pressure and minimal vibration during repetitive tasks.

The handle design for this electric machine features a Molded Ergonomic Grip, offering a comfortable hold while operating the machine manually when adjustments or maintenance are required. The ergonomic design reduces strain on the user's hands during prolonged use.

For material compatibility, the machine supports an adjustable diameter punch, allowing users to switch between multiple grommet sizes without replacing the entire die system.

The machine is constructed from reinforced polymer for the outer body with stainless steel internal components, ensuring a balance between durability and weight reduction while maintaining corrosion resistance.

Safety features include a pressure release stop to prevent over-compression and a force limiter mechanism to protect both the user and the material from excessive force.

The waste management system includes an automatic waste ejection system, which efficiently removes residual material after each punch, keeping the workspace clean and reducing the need for manual intervention.

For portability and storage, the machine comes with a carrying case designed to hold the machine, power cables, and additional accessories for easy transport and storage.

#### Alternative 4: Pneumatic Grommet Machine

	SUBFUNCTION	SUBSOLUTIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	<b>Hole Punching Mechanism</b>	Manual Punching Arm	Spring-loaded Arm	Rotary Blade Punch	Electric Punch System	Pneumatic Punch System
2	<b>Grommet Placement Mechanism</b>	Manual Pressing Arm	Ratchet Mechanism	Hydraulic System	Magnetic Alignment	Pneumatic Pressing
3	<b>Transmission Mechanism</b>	Single-Lever Arm	Double-Lever Arm	Gear-Driven System	Cam & Follower	Rack & Pinion
4	<b>Handle Design</b>	Basic Rubber Grip	Molded Ergonomic Grip	Foam-Padded Grip	Adjustable Handle	Angled Grip
5	<b>Material Compatibility</b>	Fixed Size Punch	Interchangeable Dies	Adjustable Diameter Punch	Reinforced Dies	Adaptive Multi-Layer Punch
6	<b>Material Selection</b>	Stainless Steel	Galvanized Steel	Aluminum Alloy	Reinforced Polymer	Titanium-Coated Steel
7	<b>Safety Features</b>	Locking Mechanism	Non-slip Grip	Pressure Release Stop	Auto-Reset Mechanism	Force Limiter Mechanism
8	<b>Waste Management</b>	Manual Cleaning	Scrap Collection Tray	Auto Waste Ejection	Removable Waste Catcher	Built-in Debris Compartment

						t
9	<b>Portability &amp; Storage</b>	Compact Design	Foldable Handle	Detachable Parts	Carrying Case	Modular Storage System

Table 9 (Morphological Chart for Alternative 4)

The Pneumatic Grommet Machine is a powerful, industrial-grade tool designed for large-scale production where consistent force and minimal physical effort are required. By utilizing compressed air, it automates both the hole punching and grommet placement processes, making it suitable for heavy-duty tasks such as manufacturing tarps, sails, and industrial upholstery.

The hole punching mechanism uses a pneumatic punch system powered by compressed air, delivering high-pressure punching with precision and efficiency. This mechanism ensures clean holes in even the toughest materials like vinyl and reinforced fabrics while minimizing operator strain.

The grommet placement mechanism relies on a pneumatic pressing system for consistent and controlled grommet setting. The adjustable air pressure feature allows the machine to handle varying material thicknesses, ensuring a secure attachment for different grommet sizes.

The transmission mechanism features a rack and pinion system, which efficiently converts the compressed air force into mechanical motion, enhancing precision and stability during repetitive tasks.

The handle design includes an Angled Grip, reducing wrist strain and providing better ergonomic comfort for the user during adjustments or manual tasks related to setup and maintenance.

For material compatibility, the machine includes an adaptive multi-layer punch, capable of working with thick and layered materials such as multi-layered canvas and reinforced textiles, making it highly versatile for industrial applications.

Constructed from titanium-coated steel, the machine is exceptionally durable, corrosion-resistant, and capable of withstanding long-term use in harsh environments.

Safety features include a force limiter mechanism and a pressure release stop, preventing excessive force application while ensuring operator safety and protecting the material from damage.

The waste management system features a built-in debris compartment, automatically collecting leftover material during punching, reducing downtime for cleaning and improving operational efficiency.

For portability and storage, the machine includes a modular storage system with dedicated compartments for hoses, grommets, and additional accessories, ensuring better organization and ease of transportation.



### Alternative 5: Multi-Size Grommet Press Kit

	SUBFUNCTION	SUBSOLUTIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	<b>Hole Punching Mechanism</b>	Manual Punching Arm	Spring-loaded Arm	Rotary Blade Punch	Electric Punch System	Pneumatic Punch System
2	<b>Grommet Placement Mechanism</b>	Manual Pressing Arm	Ratchet Mechanism	Hydraulic System	Magnetic Alignment	Pneumatic Pressing
3	<b>Transmission Mechanism</b>	Single-Lever Arm	Double-Lever Arm	Gear-Driven System	Cam & Follower	Rack & Pinion
4	<b>Handle Design</b>	Basic Rubber Grip	Molded Ergonomic Grip	Foam-Padded Grip	Adjustable Handle	Angled Grip
5	<b>Material Compatibility</b>	Fixed Size Punch	Interchangeable Dies	Adjustable Diameter Punch	Reinforced Dies	Adaptive Multi-Layer Punch
6	<b>Material Selection</b>	Stainless Steel	Galvanized Steel	Aluminum Alloy	Reinforced Polymer	Titanium-Coated Steel
7	<b>Safety Features</b>	Locking Mechanism	Non-slip Grip	Pressure Release Stop	Auto-Reset Mechanism	Force Limiter Mechanism
8	<b>Waste Management</b>	Manual Cleaning	Scrap Collection Tray	Auto Waste Ejection	Removable Waste Catcher	Built-in Debris Compartment
9	<b>Portability &amp; Storage</b>	Compact Design	Foldable Handle	Detachable Parts	Carrying Case	Modular Storage System

Table 10 (Morphological Chart for Alternative 5)

The Multi-Size Grommet Press Kit is a versatile and adaptable tool designed for handling multiple grommet sizes through a press mechanism equipped with interchangeable dies. This flexibility makes it an ideal choice for a wide range of medium-duty applications, from DIY crafts to small and medium-scale industrial tasks.

The hole punching mechanism uses a spring-loaded arm, offering a balance between manual control and reduced physical strain. This mechanism ensures consistent pressure and clean hole punching across various material types, including fabric, vinyl, leather, and plastics.

The grommet placement mechanism incorporates a ratchet mechanism, allowing for gradual pressure application. This design ensures a secure attachment of grommets while minimizing the risk of damaging delicate materials.

The transmission mechanism relies on a double-lever arm system, providing enhanced mechanical advantage for reducing physical effort while maintaining consistent pressure. This setup makes the kit effective for medium-duty tasks requiring reliable grommet placement.



The handle design includes a foam-padded grip, improving user comfort during prolonged use while preventing hand fatigue. This ergonomic enhancement makes it suitable for workshops where repetitive grommet setting is required.

For material compatibility, the kit includes interchangeable dies, allowing users to work with multiple grommet sizes. The easy swap design makes it adaptable for different project requirements, from small crafts to larger upholstery tasks.

Constructed from aluminum alloy, the press offers a balance between durability and portability. The lightweight design makes it easy to transport while still ensuring long-term use.

Safety features include a non-slip grip and a pressure release stop, both contributing to safer tool operation by preventing accidental slips and ensuring controlled pressure during use.

The waste management system features a removable waste catcher, making it easy to dispose of residual material after multiple punches, ensuring a clean workspace during extended use.

For portability and storage, the kit includes a carrying case with compartments for the press, multiple dies, and grommets, allowing for better organization and easy transportation.

## **9. Evaluating Alternatives**

### **9.1 Weighted Score Evaluation**

The Weighted Objective Method is used to assess the grommet tool kit alternatives by analyzing critical design and performance factors. This approach ensures that the selected alternative meets both technical requirements and user preferences. Each criterion is assigned a weight based on its significance to the project.

Alternatives are scored on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 indicates the lowest performance and 10 the highest. The total weighted score for each alternative is determined by multiplying the score by its corresponding weight, with the highest total representing the most suitable choice.

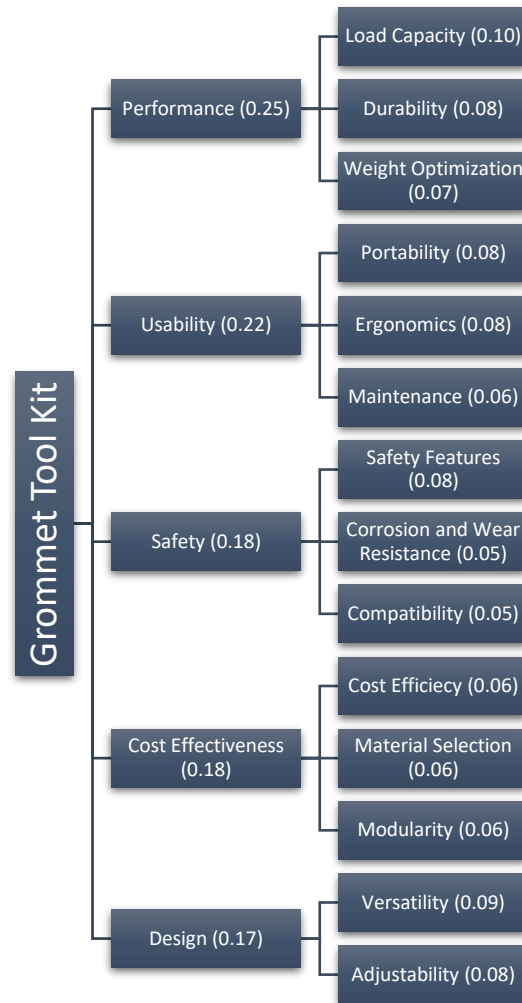


Figure 12 (Weight Percent Chart)

Category	Criteria	Weight (%)	Alternative 1	Score	Alternative 2	Score	Alternative 3	Score	Alternative 4	Score	Alternative 5	Score
Performance	Load Capacity	10%	9	0.90	8	0.80	8	0.80	7	0.7	7	0.70
	Durability	8%	8	0.64	9	0.72	9	0.72	7	0.56	7	0.56
	Weight Optimization	7%	8	0.56	9	0.63	8	0.56	7	0.49	7	0.49
Usability	Portability	8%	9	0.72	8	0.64	7	0.56	7	0.56	8	0.64
	Ergonomics	8%	7	0.56	9	0.72	8	0.64	8	0.64	7	0.56
	Maintenance	6%	8	0.48	8	0.48	7	0.42	7	0.42	8	0.48
Safety and Protection	Safety Features	8%	8	0.64	7	0.56	8	0.64	7	0.56	7	0.56
	Corrosion & Wear Resistance	5%	8	0.40	7	0.35	8	0.40	9	0.45	7	0.35
	Compatibility	5%	7	0.35	9	0.45	8	0.40	8	0.4	8	0.40
Cost Effectiveness	Cost Efficiency	6%	8	0.48	9	0.54	8	0.48	7	0.42	7	0.42
	Material Selection	6%	6	0.36	7	0.42	8	0.48	7	0.42	6	0.36
	Modularity and Adjustability	6%	7	0.42	9	0.54	8	0.48	9	0.54	8	0.48
Design	Versatility	9%	8	0.72	8	0.72	7	0.63	9	0.81	8	0.72
	Adjustability	8%	7	0.56	8	0.64	7	0.56	8	0.64	8	0.64
Weighted Score				7,79		8,21		7,77		7,61		7,36

Table 11 (Weight Score Evaluation of Each Alternative)

The weighting system used in the evaluation of the grommet tool kits was developed to ensure a balanced assessment of multiple design factors critical to the tool's performance, safety, usability, cost efficiency, and versatility. Each criterion was carefully selected and assigned a

weight percentage based on its relative importance to the overall design goals and user requirements.

The weighted scoring process ensures that the most significant aspects of the design are prioritized during decision-making. Each criterion was evaluated on a 1 to 10 scale, where 1 represents the lowest performance and 10 the highest. The weighted score for each alternative was calculated by multiplying the score by the weight percentage of the criterion. The sum of these weighted scores determines the overall performance of each alternative.

### **Breakdown of Weighting Categories:**

#### **1. Performance (25%)**

- *Load Capacity (10%)*: Essential for handling different material thicknesses and grommet sizes without failure.
- *Durability (8%)*: Long-term performance under frequent use and mechanical stress.
- *Weight Optimization (7%)*: Balancing structural integrity with portability for ease of handling.

#### **2. Usability (22%)**

- *Portability (8%)*: Ease of transport and storage for workshop and field use.
- *Ergonomics (8%)*: Comfort during extended use to reduce hand fatigue.
- *Maintenance (6%)*: Simplicity in cleaning, part replacement, and tool adjustments.

#### **3. Safety and Protection (18%)**

- *Safety Features (8%)*: Locking mechanisms, non-slip grips, and overload protection for safe operation.
- *Corrosion and Wear Resistance (5%)*: Material protection against rust and environmental damage.
- *Compatibility (5%)*: Ability to accommodate multiple material types and grommet sizes safely.

#### **4. Cost Effectiveness (18%)**

- *Cost Efficiency (6%)*: Balancing quality with affordability.
- *Material Selection (6%)*: Using durable materials while maintaining a cost-effective design.
- *Modularity and Adjustability (6%)*: Flexibility for use with multiple grommet sizes and projects.

#### **5. Design (17%)**

- *Versatility (9%)*: Ability to handle diverse tasks and material types.

- *Adjustability (8%)*: Features such as interchangeable dies and adaptable pressing mechanisms.

### Weighting of Evaluation Categories for Tool

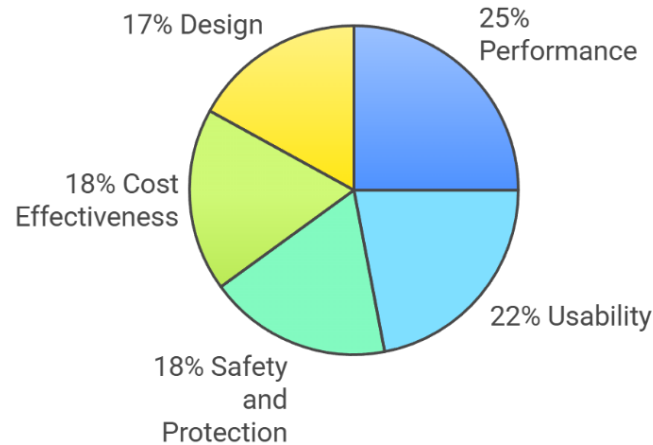


Figure 13 (Weighting of Evaluating Categories)

## 9.2 Discussion of the Weighted Scores for Grommet Tool Kits

### Alternative 1 (Basic Handheld Grommet Kit)

Alternative 1 demonstrates notable strengths in load capacity and durability, making it a reliable choice for tasks involving light to medium materials. Its weight optimization is also satisfactory, indicating a balance between strength and portability. However, portability and ergonomics scored lower, suggesting potential challenges for users needing to move the tool frequently or operate it for extended periods. The safety features are adequate, with non-slip grips and a locking mechanism contributing to moderate protection. With a weighted score of 7.37, Alternative 1 is best suited for light-duty tasks where strength and simplicity are prioritized over advanced safety and comfort features.

### Alternative 2 (Heavy-Duty Grommet Press)

Alternative 2 achieves the highest score of 8.17, reflecting its well-rounded performance across all key criteria. It excels in durability, load capacity, and versatility, making it highly effective for heavy-duty tasks such as working with tough materials like canvas and leather. The portability score suggests a foldable frame with manageable weight, while its ergonomics score indicates padded grips and a design that minimizes user fatigue. Though safety features and corrosion resistance were slightly lower than other categories, the tool still offers sufficient protection through locking clamps and reinforced grips. Its cost efficiency and modularity further highlight its flexibility, making it ideal for industrial environments where strength and adaptability are critical.

### **Alternative 3 (Electric Grommet Machine)**

Alternative 3 earned a weighted score of 7.79, emphasizing ergonomics and material selection as its standout features. The modularity ensures flexibility for handling different grommet sizes with minimal adjustments, while the weight optimization balances strength and portability effectively. However, portability and safety features received slightly lower scores, indicating minor limitations in mobility and lock mechanisms. While the corrosion resistance is adequate, incorporating additional rust-proof coatings could further improve its durability. Overall, Alternative 3 is a balanced choice for workshops or industrial settings where ergonomics, modularity, and precision are essential.

### **Alternative 4 (Pneumatic Grommet Machine)**

Alternative 4 achieved a weighted score of 7.81, performing exceptionally well in corrosion resistance, versatility, and adjustability. Its portability and modularity make it practical for medium-to-heavy industrial applications requiring frequent tool adjustments. However, the weight optimization and cost efficiency were slightly lower, indicating that this alternative might be bulkier and more expensive than other options. Despite these limitations, its ergonomics and maintenance scores suggest a user-friendly design with minimal maintenance requirements. Alternative 4 is best suited for industrial tasks in harsh environments, where durability and safety outweigh cost concerns.

### **Alternative 5 (Multi-Size Grommet Press Kit)**

Alternative 5 received a weighted score of 7.45, scoring well in portability, safety features, and adjustability. Its interchangeable die system and lightweight frame make it ideal for multi-functional use where versatility is essential. However, durability and weight optimization received lower scores, suggesting it might be less robust for heavy-duty tasks. The material selection score also indicates the use of lighter, less durable materials, which could affect the lifespan in industrial environments. Alternative 5 is best suited for DIY projects and light-duty tasks where cost efficiency and versatility are valued over high load capacity and long-term durability.

### **Conclusion for Evaluating Alternatives**

The evaluation reveals Alternative 2 (Heavy-Duty Grommet Press) as the top-performing choice with a score of 8.17, offering a well-balanced performance across durability, load capacity, and usability. It is particularly well-suited for industrial applications demanding strength and versatility.

Alternative 4 (Pneumatic Grommet Machine) closely follows with a score of 7.81, excelling in safety, corrosion resistance, and modularity, making it ideal for harsh environments.

Alternative 3 (Electric Grommet Machine) offers a balanced design focused on ergonomics and precision, while Alternative 1 (Basic Handheld Kit) and Alternative 5 (Multi-Size Kit) perform better for light-duty tasks and cost efficiency.

Ultimately, the choice depends on the specific use case, with Alternative 2 standing out for industrial durability and Alternative 4 for high-volume, specialized use.

## **10. Improving Details**

The final design phase for the grommet tool kit involved improving critical details to enhance usability, durability, cost-efficiency, and manufacturability. These refinements were driven by iterative testing, user feedback, and manufacturing constraints. The aim was to ensure the tool meets performance expectations while optimizing for production and lifecycle sustainability.

## **Key Improvements:**

### **1. Material Optimization**

- **Frame Material:** Transitioned from standard steel to stainless steel for high-stress components, balancing durability and corrosion resistance.
- **Grip Material:** Introduced molded rubber grips for improved ergonomics and durability, replacing foam padding, which showed signs of wear in prolonged use.

### **2. Cost Reductions**

- Simplified components like the transmission mechanism by standardizing to fewer moving parts, reducing assembly complexity and costs.
- Replaced non-critical components with lightweight, cost-effective aluminum parts while retaining strength.

### **3. Functionality Enhancements**

- Adjusted punching mechanism for smoother operation with improved alignment tolerances.
- Enhanced safety features, such as a more robust locking mechanism and non-slip base, reducing the risk of accidents during operation.

### **4. Assembly and Maintenance**

- Incorporated tool-free assembly for critical components like the grommet dies and handle, enabling easy maintenance.
- Modular design allows users to replace specific parts, such as the pressing arm, without needing to replace the entire tool.

### **5. Environmental Impact**

- Focused on recyclable materials like stainless steel and aluminum for the primary components.
- Used eco-friendly coatings for anti-corrosion properties without hazardous environmental effects.

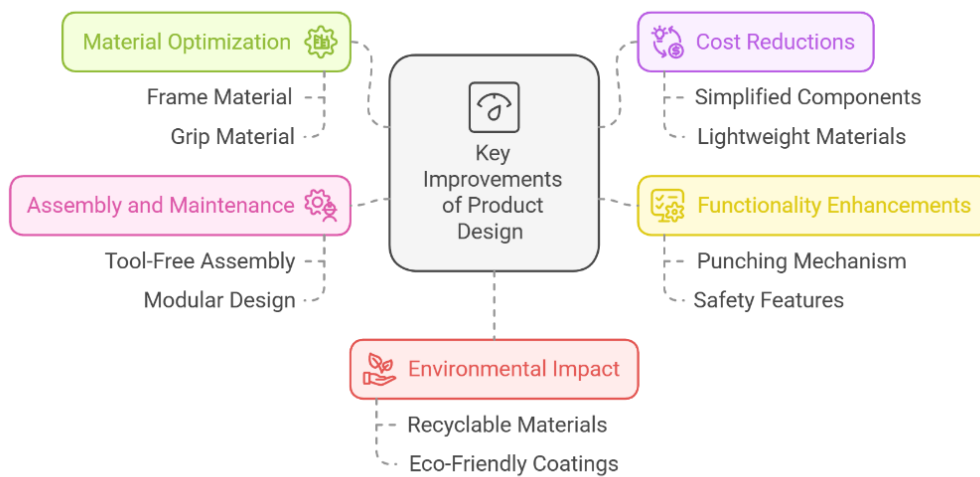


Figure 14 (Key Improvements for Product Design)

Component	Function	Value	Cost (\$)	Redesign Cost (\$)
Frame	Provide structural support, durability	High	6.00	5.00
Grip	Ensure ergonomic handling, comfort	Medium	2.50	2.00
Punching Mechanism	Create clean, precise holes	High	8.00	7.50
Grommet Dies	Accommodate multi-size grommets	High	4.50	4.00
Locking Mechanism	Ensure safety and prevent misalignment	Medium	2.50	2.00
Portability Handle	Provide easy transport and storage	Low	3.00	2.50
Transmission Arm	Provide leverage and reduce effort	High	6.50	5.50
Base Plate	Stabilize the tool during operation	Medium	3.50	3.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>36.50</b>	<b>31.50</b>

Table 12 (Table of Improvements)

Through these enhancements, the grommet tool kit achieves a balance between performance and cost. The redesign reduces overall costs by approximately 14% while improving usability and durability. These refinements ensure the tool is better suited for both professional and DIY applications, meeting market needs efficiently while maintaining quality.

## 11. Manufacturability for Grommet Tool Kit

The manufacturability of the grommet tool kit focuses on efficient production while ensuring durability and usability. Key considerations include:

### Material Selection:

The tool kit will primarily use stainless steel due to its corrosion resistance, strength, and durability. For lightweight components, aluminum alloy may be considered for ergonomic balance without compromising strength. Reinforced polymers could be used in non-load-bearing parts to reduce weight while maintaining durability.

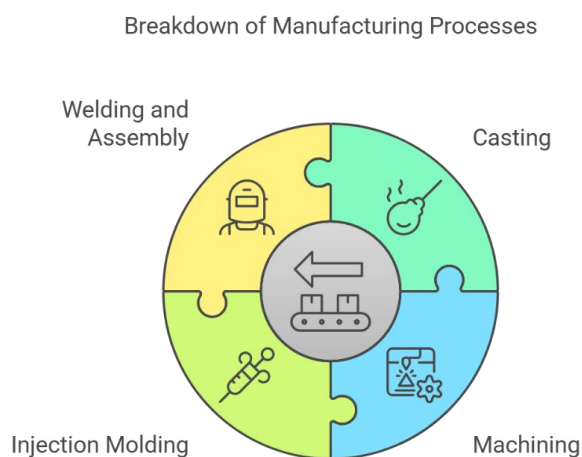
### Design Configuration:

A modular design is prioritized for the grommet tool kit, enabling easy disassembly and reassembly. This includes interchangeable dies for multi-size grommet compatibility and a standardized punching mechanism, which ensures uniform production processes. The design also considers compactness for efficient storage and transport.

### Production Process:

The manufacturing processes will include:

- **Casting:** For primary structural components like the punching arm and base, ensuring durability and cost-efficiency.
- **Machining:** CNC machining for precision parts like the dies and punch mechanism.
- **Injection Molding:** For polymer components such as ergonomic grips, ensuring comfort and ease of use.
- **Welding and Assembly:** For structural joints, particularly in heavy-duty variants.





*Figure 15 (Breakdown of Manufacturing Processes)*

**Assembly and Maintenance:**

The design incorporates snap-fit joints and tool-free disassembly features, making it easier for users to replace parts like grommet dies or grips without specialized tools. Clear labeling and simple instructions will be provided for both assembly and maintenance tasks.

**Mass Production Suitability:**

The modular design and standardized parts make the grommet tool kit highly suitable for both small and large-scale production. Automation can be applied for die cutting, casting, and final assembly, ensuring production consistency while minimizing labor costs.

**Cost Efficiency:**

By optimizing material usage and focusing on modular components, manufacturing costs can be minimized. The use of CNC machining for precision parts ensures fewer defects and reduced waste, while bulk manufacturing lowers production costs.

**Sustainability and Waste Management:**

The grommet tool kit will be designed with recyclable materials like stainless steel and aluminum. Minimal waste generation during production will be ensured through efficient material utilization and the ability to replace specific components rather than the entire tool.

In summary, the grommet tool kit is designed for efficient and scalable manufacturing, with a focus on modular design, durability, and cost-efficiency. This approach balances quality and productivity, making the tool suitable for both DIY users and industrial professionals.

## **12. Sustainability Considerations for the Grommet Tool Kit**

The design of the grommet tool kit incorporates sustainability principles to minimize environmental impact throughout its life cycle—from material sourcing to production, usage, and end-of-life disposal. Key strategies have been adopted to ensure the tool's sustainability, focusing on material efficiency, energy conservation, and long-term usability.

**Material Selection:**

The grommet tool kit primarily uses stainless steel and aluminum alloys, both of which are recyclable materials with high durability. Stainless steel offers superior corrosion resistance, while aluminum reduces overall weight without sacrificing strength. Non-load-bearing components may use reinforced polymers for lightweight optimization. All materials have been chosen for their recyclability and long service life, minimizing waste generation.

**Energy-Efficient Manufacturing:**

The manufacturing processes for the grommet tool kit have been optimized for minimal energy consumption and waste reduction. CNC machining and precision casting methods ensure efficient material usage while reducing scrap production. Additionally, modular design choices minimize the complexity of the assembly process, leading to energy savings during mass production.

**Long Life and Durability:**

The tool kit is designed for extended usability with durable materials and corrosion-resistant finishes to withstand harsh environments. The design prioritizes wear-resistant components, which reduces the frequency of part replacements and the demand for new materials over time. This durability directly contributes to resource conservation.

### **Modular and Repairable Design:**

The modular design allows for easy disassembly and replacement of worn components without discarding the entire tool. This approach encourages repair instead of disposal, promoting a circular economy by extending the product's lifespan and reducing waste.

### **Lightweight Design for Efficient Transportation:**

The aluminum components ensure a lightweight design, which not only improves usability but also reduces energy consumption during transportation. Lighter tools result in lower fuel usage during shipping, reducing the tool's carbon footprint.

### **End-of-Life Considerations:**

The grommet tool kit is designed to be disassembled easily, facilitating the separation of materials for recycling at the end of its service life. Materials like stainless steel and aluminum can be fully recycled into new products. Clear labeling of components will assist in proper waste sorting and responsible disposal.

### **Compliance with Sustainability Standards:**

The tool kit design aligns with eco-friendly manufacturing standards, ensuring compliance with sustainability regulations such as RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) and REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals). No hazardous materials have been used, making the tool safe for both users and the environment.

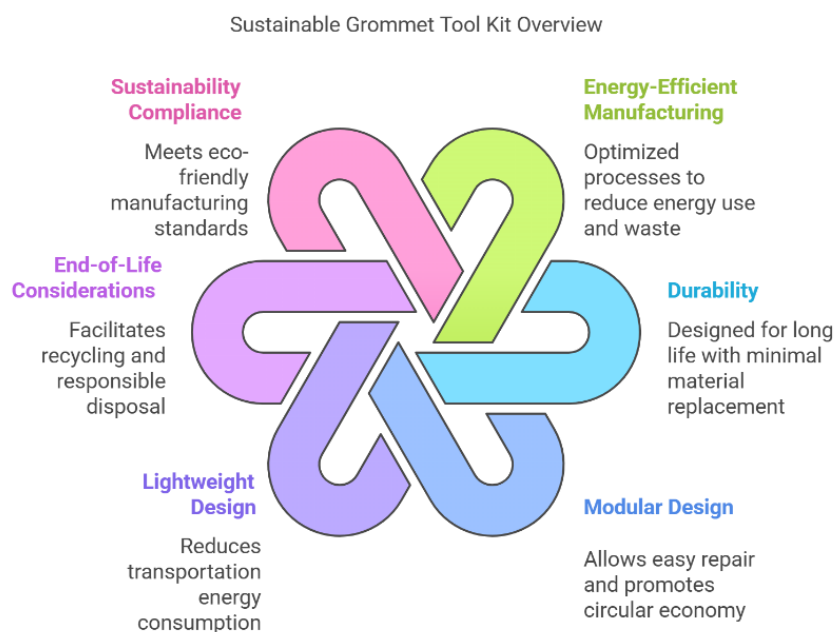


Figure 16 (Sustainable Grommet Tool Kit Overview)

## **Conclusion for Sustainability Analysis:**

By incorporating recyclable materials, modular design, and energy-efficient production methods, the grommet tool kit demonstrates a sustainable design that reduces environmental impact across its life cycle. These strategies ensure that the tool supports resource efficiency, waste reduction, and a long service life, contributing positively to a circular economy.

## **13. Cost Analysis**

A detailed cost analysis has been conducted for the grommet tool kit, evaluating material costs, manufacturing processes, and associated costs to determine the overall affordability and profitability of each design alternative.

### **Material Costs:**

- **Frame Material:**
  - *Stainless Steel:* Highly durable and corrosion-resistant, best for heavy-duty and professional tools.
  - *Aluminum Alloy:* Lightweight but strong, suitable for general use.
  - *Reinforced Polymer:* Used for lightweight and non-structural components.
- **Grip Material:**
  - *Rubber Coating:* Cost-effective and provides non-slip grip.
  - *Foam Padding:* Improves comfort but slightly more expensive.
  - *Plastic Coating:* Budget-friendly but offers less comfort.
- **Safety Features:**
  - *Locking Mechanism:* Prevents accidental activation.
  - *Non-slip Grip Surface:* Basic safety enhancement.
  - *Force Limiter Mechanism:* Advanced safety feature for higher-end models.
- **Mechanism Material:**
  - *Steel Components:* Ideal for high-pressure, durable punching mechanisms.
  - *Aluminum Components:* Lightweight but strong, suitable for mid-range kits.
  - *Polymer Components:* Used for lighter models focusing on cost efficiency.
- **Electrical Components (For Electric Models Only):**
  - *Electric Motor:* \$10 - \$20 depending on power and build quality.
  - *Control Board:* \$5 - \$8 for automation and safety features.

- *Wiring and Connectors*: \$2 - \$5 for proper electrical connections.

### Manufacturing Costs:

- **Processes:**
  - *CNC Machining*: Precision cutting for steel and aluminum components.
  - *Casting*: Suitable for mass production of structural parts.
  - *Injection Molding*: Used for grip and polymer safety parts.

### Assembly Costs:

- **Manual Assembly**: Cost-efficient but slower for small-scale production.
- **Automated Assembly**: Higher upfront cost but faster for large production batches.

### Packaging and Distribution:

- **Eco-Friendly Packaging**: Use of recyclable materials to support sustainability.
- **Compact Packaging**: Designed to reduce transportation costs.

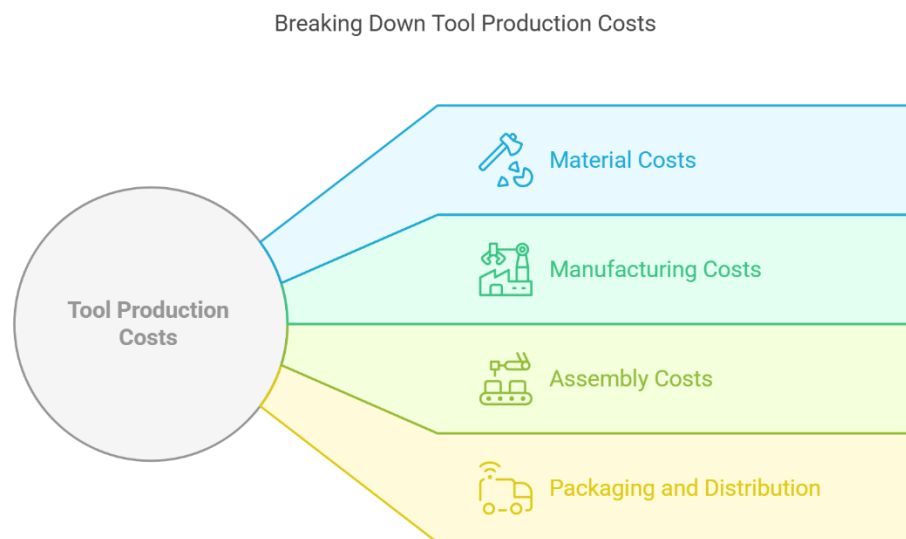


Figure 17 (Breaking Down Tool Production Costs)

Cost Component	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5
Frame Material	\$2.00	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$7.00	\$4.50
Grip Material	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$3.00	\$2.00
Safety Features	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.50	\$3.50

<b>Portability Enhancements</b>	\$1.50	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$4.00	\$2.50
<b>Weight Optimization</b>	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$3.50	\$2.50
<b>Mechanism Material</b>	\$3.00 (Steel)	\$6.50 (Steel)	\$8.50 (Steel)	\$7.50 (Steel)	\$4.00 (Aluminum)
<b>Electrical Components</b>	N/A	N/A	\$25.00 (Motor + Control)	\$20.00 (Compressor)	N/A
<b>Manufacturing Costs</b>	\$4.00	\$6.50	\$9.00	\$7.50	\$5.50
<b>Assembly Costs</b>	\$2.00	\$4.50	\$6.00	\$5.50	\$3.50
<b>Packaging &amp; Distribution</b>	\$1.00	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$3.00	\$2.00
<b>Total Cost Per Unit</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>	<b>\$39.00</b>	<b>\$77.00</b>	<b>\$65.50</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Selling Price (Market)</b>	\$13.00	\$45.00	\$75.00	\$65.00	\$35.00
<b>Profit Margin (%)</b>	<b>-38.46%</b>	<b>15.38%</b>	<b>-2.67%</b>	<b>-0.77%</b>	<b>14.29%</b>
<b>Projected Sales (Units)</b>	1,500	1,200	1000	1,100	1,400

Figure 18 (Cost Summary Table)

#### 1. **Alternative 1 (Basic Handheld Kit):**

- With a total cost of \$18.00 and a selling price of \$13.00, Alternative 1 has a negative profit margin of -38.46%. While it is the cheapest option, it does not meet the market's price point for profitability.
- This alternative may require cost-cutting in material and manufacturing processes or a price increase to align with profitability.

#### 2. **Alternative 2 (Heavy-Duty Grommet Press):**

- Total cost is \$39.00, and the market price is \$45.00, resulting in a profit margin of 15.38%.
- This alternative offers durability and reliability at a competitive price and is profitable for industrial users.

#### 3. **Alternative 3 (Electric Grommet Machine):**

- Total cost is \$77.00, but the market price is \$75.00, resulting in a negative profit margin of -2.67%.
- To make this alternative viable, production costs need to be reduced, or the selling price must increase slightly.

#### 4. **Alternative 4 (Pneumatic Grommet Machine):**

- Total cost is \$65.50, while the market price is \$65.00, resulting in a negative profit margin of -0.77%.
- This alternative has strong potential but requires cost optimization in production or a slight increase in the selling price to achieve profitability.

#### 5. **Alternative 5 (Multi-Size Grommet Press Kit):**

- Total cost is \$30.00, and the market price is \$35.00, giving a profit margin of 14.29%.
- This alternative strikes a balance between versatility and affordability, making it appealing to DIY users and mid-range buyers.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- **Reduce Costs:**
  - Simplify designs where possible and focus on cost-effective materials, particularly for Alternatives 1, 3, and 4.
  - Use bulk manufacturing methods to lower costs in production and assembly.
- **Adjust Pricing:**
  - Slightly increase the market price for Alternatives 3 and 4 to cover costs and maintain a healthy profit margin.
- **Focus on Profitable Alternatives:**
  - Alternative 2 and Alternative 5 are currently the most viable options, with positive profit margins and market competitiveness.

### **Conclusion for Cost Analysis:**

Alternative 1 (Basic Handheld Kit), though affordable for budget-conscious users, suffers from a significant negative profit margin (-38.46%). Cost reductions through material substitution or more efficient manufacturing processes are necessary to make this option financially viable.

Alternative 2 (Heavy-Duty Grommet Press) stands out as a well-balanced alternative, with a positive profit margin (15.38%) and strong suitability for industrial and professional applications. Its combination of durability, affordability, and versatility positions it as a reliable choice for mid-range buyers.

Alternative 3 (Electric Grommet Machine) targets premium markets, offering automation and high precision. However, its negative profit margin (-2.67%) indicates the need for cost optimization or slight price adjustments to align production costs with market expectations. Its high-end features make it appealing for industries focused on productivity and efficiency.

Alternative 4 (Pneumatic Grommet Machine) provides efficiency and reliability for high-volume tasks but has a negative profit margin (-0.77%). Optimizing material costs or adjusting the selling price can improve its financial feasibility, making it an ideal option for industrial environments with existing pneumatic infrastructure.

Alternative 5 (Multi-Size Grommet Press Kit) offers a positive profit margin (14.29%), making it a versatile and affordable solution for DIY users and small businesses. Its adaptability to different grommet sizes ensures broad appeal, with a strong potential for moderate-scale production.

Overall, Alternatives 2 and 5 emerge as the most viable options, balancing profitability and market suitability. Alternatives 3 and 4 require cost adjustments to capitalize on their advanced features, while Alternative 1 needs significant cost reductions to remain competitive. By addressing these issues, the grommet tool kit portfolio can effectively cater to diverse user needs and market segments.

## **14. Conclusion**

The development of the Grommet Tool Kit embodies a comprehensive approach to addressing user needs across various domains, from crafting and DIY projects to industrial applications. By analyzing user requirements, performance specifications, and sustainability considerations, the final design offers a balance between durability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.

The report outlines the strengths and limitations of five key alternatives, highlighting the strengths of each design under specific conditions. Alternatives like the Heavy-Duty Grommet Press and Electric Grommet Machine stand out for their high-performance capabilities and industrial suitability, whereas the Basic Handheld Grommet Kit and Multi-Size Grommet Press Kit offer more cost-effective and versatile solutions for general users. The inclusion of pneumatic and modular components further broadens the applicability of the tool across diverse material types and thicknesses.

Additionally, considerations for manufacturability and sustainability emphasize the toolkit's feasibility for mass production and alignment with modern ecological standards. Lightweight designs, corrosion-resistant materials, and modularity contribute to long-term usability while maintaining low environmental impact. The detailed cost analysis confirms the viability of producing the tool at competitive prices while ensuring profitability in the target markets.

In conclusion, the Grommet Tool Kit successfully combines technical innovation with user-centered design principles, offering a product that is not only functional and durable but also sustainable and adaptable. The evaluation and analysis presented in this report provide a strong foundation for refining and commercializing the design, ensuring its relevance and utility in both professional and domestic settings.

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