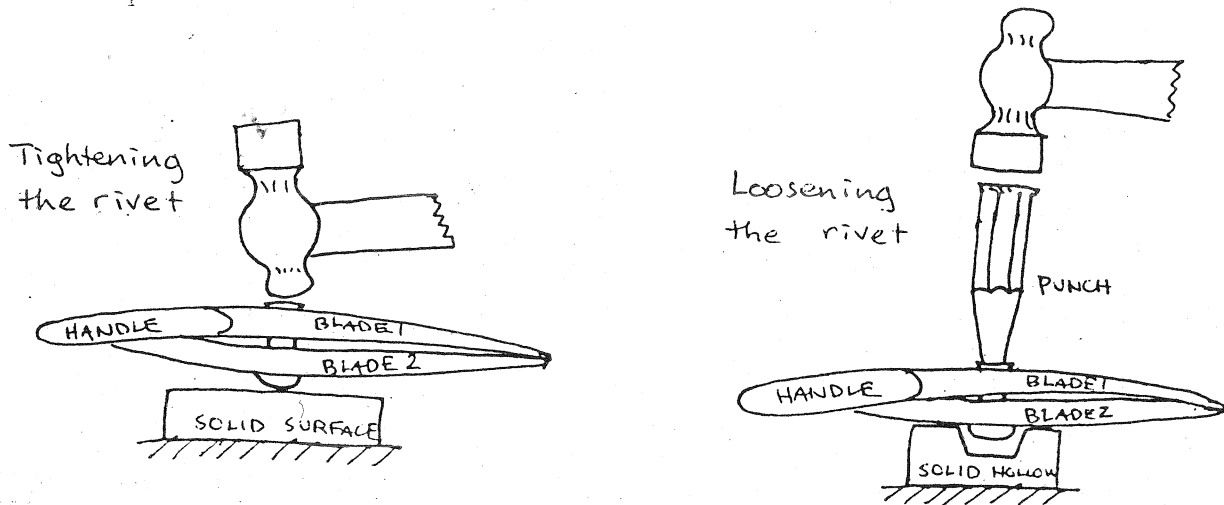


Sharpening scissors

SHARPENING SCISSORS

Most scissors can be used to cut paper but before you send scissors with a sewing kit, always test them on a piece of thin textile. If they do not cut, there could be two causes:

1. The blades do not meet properly. The blades curve slightly and are sprung against each other, so that the cutting edges actually meet at the point where the material is cut. If they do not, the material can slip between. Tighten by tapping the rivet gently on a solid surface. If the rivet is too tight, so that the scissors are difficult to use, loosen it by pushing it back slightly with a punch.



2. The cutting edges are blunt. All good shears are hollow ground, i.e. the sides of the blades facing each other are slightly hollow to give a keen edge. When they wear the hollowness disappears nearest to the cutting edge, and the textile can slip between the two flats. To regrind them hollow is very difficult but you can grind the cutting edges down until they reach the hollow section again. For this a fine grinding wheel is used; good scissors should be too hard to file. If you cannot grind, an alternative is to use emery paper wrapped around a file and sharpen by hand with the scissors fixed in a vice. If the scissors have been ground so far that they do not close, they should be rejected. Clean them if they work.

