

GASKETS, HOW TO MAKE

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When making gaskets you can trace the outline of the part you are working with and generally cut the outside shape with a scissors. Cutting the inside is a different story and it requires an X-acto blade. I like to form holes by taking a bolt and striking it onto the gasket and punching it into a wood block, then trim everything with a single edge razor. If you have some curved wood chisels they can be handy too.

Look in any old time mechanics tool kit and you will find two things in the same drawer of the tool box. The two things are a large pair of scissors, and the smallest ball peen hammer you have ever seen. The hammer is usually about 4 ounces, or less. The smallest ball peen in the tool kit is always the gasket hammer. The following is how they are used, using the fuel pump block off plate as the example.

1. Lay the gasket material on the plate on the side of the plate that will be bolted up to the engine.
2. Using the ball end of the hammer tap lightly in the area of one of the bolt holes until you find it. Then after you have located the bolt hole, use the ball end and drive the gasket material over the hole into the hole, but not all the way through. You have just used the plate as the stationary side of a punch die, and located one of the bolt holes. You have also located your gasket.
3. Do the same thing to the other bolt hole.
4. Now you have a choice, A. Carefully turn the gasket and plate over and using the scissors cut the outline of the plate out, and then push the gasket material out of the bolt holes, or B. Turn the hammer over and using the striking face start tapping around the edges of the plate until the gasket material falls away from the plate. Either way, you have just made a gasket.
- 4a, if you are doing this onboard, exhaust manifolds make dandy things to use as the base plate of your improvised gasket die set.
5. If you have better access to the hole, or you were making a gasket for the fuel pump you would cut a piece of material slightly larger than the fuel pump then use the engine block itself as the die. After you had punched the bolt holes, and the middle hole for the pump arm you would line the bolt holes up with the fuel pump and using the scissors cut it to the correct shape.









