



Grommets and Grommet Press Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How can I make my grommet press easier to operate?**

Remove all dies from the press. You should be able to rotate the press handle freely, with minimal resistance. If you do feel resistance, you should lubricate the press moving head with any type of sewing machine oil. Use grease syringe (#AS65) to lubricate the inside of the moving head. If you still feel resistance when turning the press handle, loosen the 2 bolts on the side about one quarter turn each.

2. **What is the best way to prolong the life of my grommet cutters and setters?**

For cutters, use a cutting block topped with our chipboard, #GLC/P. It is recommended for thin, strong fabrics such as silk, and with our large cutters (GL10/C or larger). This provides a cushioned but stable surface for the cutting edge. Fabric will cut cleaner and dies will stay sharper.

For setters, keep a thin layer of sewing machine oil on the working surface of the top setting die at all times, including the cone shaped area protruding from the die face and the groove on the root of the cone shape. Use silicone spray (#AS15) on the working surfaces of the top die every 20 grommets to reduce the setting force.

Always keep the cutting and setting dies lubricated with sewing machine oil after your job is completed to prevent rust.

3. **Do Rowley Company cutting and setting dies fit presses sold by other companies?**

Unfortunately, our cutting and setting dies are designed to mate with our grommet presses only, and do not fit any other presses.

4. **Can I set grommets that I buy elsewhere on Rowley Company setting dies?**

Our setting dies may not work with grommets from other suppliers. The same size grommets may have slightly different dimensions and this small difference may result in improper alignment and difficulty setting the grommets.

5. **What material are your grommets made from? Will they rust?**

Our grommets are made from brass and are rust proof. Other grommets on the market can be made from steel, which can rust in a short period of time. When used outdoors, the surface of brass grommets may tarnish or discolor over time, but will never rust.

6. **What can I do to create a nice looking heading when using grommets?**

The panel is heavy and I don't want the grommets to pull out?

Always purchase enough grommets to create and test a sample heading first. Try using buckram, interlining or Fusible Stabilizer (#FB10/P) in the drapery heading to add thickness. This will prevent the fabric from pulling out of the grommet. Double turn the fabric over the buckram to provide enough thickness for the grommet to be set tightly. If the thickness still does not allow for tight crimping, you may need to add another layer of thickness with interlining or Fabric Stabilizer.

7. **I am having a hard time setting large grommets, like the #15 and #20 sizes. What can I do to make these easier to set?**

Our largest grommets require about 150 lbs of force to set, are a little difficult, even with our grommet press. Ensure you have the press handle extension installed on your grommet press. It will give you additional leverage and make the job a bit easier.

Additionally, you can reduce the force required by applying a little silicone spray inside the neck of the grommets. Place a paper towel under the grommets and with the neck facing down on your worktable, spray silicone at an angle all around the neck of the grommet. Clean the surface of the grommets with a paper towel prior to setting.

8. **How can I remove a set grommet without damaging my fabric?**

Hold the top edge of the grommet neck with pliers and bend the crimped portion inward toward the center. Do this all the way around the grommet to release the washer.