

WARNING

**Read This Manual
BEFORE Operating This Tool**

SIMPSON

Strong-Tie

®

OPERATOR'S MANUAL

GCN150/ GCN-MEP GAS-ACTUATED CONCRETE NAILER



SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

A. TRAINING

1. Simpson Strong-Tie recommends obtaining training and reading this operator's manual before attempting to use this tool. Training is available at www.strongtie.com/training, or by calling 1-800-999-5099. Obtaining this instruction is ***YOUR RESPONSIBILITY***.
2. Read this manual completely and understand its contents fully before attempting to operate the tool. If there is anything in this manual that you do not fully understand, ask your instructor or call Simpson Strong-Tie at 1-800-999-5099 for information. Reading and understanding this manual is ***YOUR RESPONSIBILITY***.

B. LIMITATIONS

1. Just as no instruction book of any kind can forewarn against all possible situations or emergencies that may arise, neither can Simpson Strong-Tie instructors or printed instructions detail all possible conditions or circumstances surrounding the use of this tool or its supporting products. Recognizing these circumstances and reacting in a safe manner is ***YOUR RESPONSIBILITY***.
2. Simpson Strong-Tie disclaims any responsibility for injury or death, which may result from any disregard of this manual or the verbal instruction of the authorized Simpson Strong-Tie instructor. Following the rules of safe operation is ***YOUR RESPONSIBILITY***.

**SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU!
OBTAIN AUTHORIZED TRAINING**

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INTRODUCTION

The Simpson Strong-Tie® GCN150 and GCN-MEP tools are low-velocity, or indirect-acting, gas-actuated tools. Do not attempt to operate either of these tools before obtaining proper training. Training is available at www.strongtie.com/training, or by calling 1-800-999-5099.

READ THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY!

Understanding the safety features, operating principles and limitations of the tool will help you operate the tool with the greatest safety and efficiency. Simpson Strong-Tie disclaims any responsibility for incidents resulting from the disregard of these instructions.

SAFE HANDLING OF GCN TOOLS AND FUEL CELLS

GENERAL HANDLING OF THE GCN150, GCN-MEP, AND FUEL CELL (GFC34)

1. Open the tool before operating to make sure it does not contain fuel, and remove battery, if installed.
2. **Always** point the tool away from yourself and all bystanders.
3. **Never** place your hand over the front (fastener guide) of the tool.
4. **Never** operate the tool without checking to see if the fastener guide is free of obstructions and that the tool is clean and in good working condition.
5. **Never** attempt to alter, modify or manufacture parts for use in your Simpson Strong-Tie® tool, this can cause malfunctions and result in unsafe functioning of the tool. Use only genuine Simpson Strong-Tie parts, fasteners and fuel cells at all times.
6. Operators and bystanders must wear eye and ear protection, and head protection is recommended. Serious injury or death can occur if personal protective items are not used.
7. **REMEMBER:** Use common sense and good judgment. Use these tools for their intended purpose only. Know the material you are fastening into and make certain it is compatible with the gas-actuated tool.
8. **Always** properly brace yourself when working on scaffolding or ladders.
9. **Never** carry a loaded tool from job to job.
10. **Never** use the tool for anything other than its intended purpose.
11. **Never** carry fuel cells in the same pocket or container with fasteners or any other hard objects.
12. **Never** use gas-actuated tools in flammable atmospheres.
13. **Never** strike or pry a fastener or fuel cell from the tool.

SAFE HANDLING OF GCN TOOLS AND FUEL CELLS

1. **NEVER** attempt to force a fuel cell into or out of the fuel compartment.
2. **NEVER** use a sharp or pointed object to install or remove the fuel cell, this may cause an accidental discharge, or may puncture/damage the fuel cell, creating a hazardous condition.
3. **NEVER** attempt to service a jammed tool with the battery and fuel cell installed.
4. If at any time during the operation of the tool you feel it is not working properly, STOP using it and call your Simpson Strong-Tie representative.
5. If unnecessary bystanders are in the area tell them to leave, warn all others that you are using a gas actuated tool.
6. Check the work surface to be sure it is clear of any debris. Clear away any debris so that the tool sits flush on the work surface.
7. Check the work area for explosive or flammable materials. If any are found remove them before operating the tool.
8. Remove any debris from the tool barrel before operating.
9. Check the air filter for cleanliness and condition; if necessary, replace with new filter (part # GCN-BC0597) or clean prior to operating tool.
10. **NEVER** load more than one fastener in the barrel or fastener guide for any reason.
11. Should a tool become disabled for any reason, immediately remove the fuel cell and battery, and tag the tool "Defective Tool." Do not resume operation until the disabled tool has been repaired according to manufacturer's instructions.

For cleaning procedures, please refer to www.strongtie.com/GCNcleaning

BASE MATERIAL EVALUATION

BASE MATERIAL SUITABILITY & THE CENTER PUNCH TEST

Before loading the tool or fastener into any base material, check the suitability and thickness of the base material. To check base material suitability, give it the center punch test.

CENTER PUNCH TEST

Using the fastener as a punch, with a hammer, strike a solid blow to the actual material you wish to fasten into, then look for these results:

1. If the point of the fastener is blunted, the material is too hard and is unsuitable. If the material is too hard, the fastener can ricochet, and possibly escape, striking you or bystanders and cause serious injury or death.
2. If the material cracks or shatters, it is too brittle and is unsuitable. This can result in particles striking the operator or bystanders, or the fastener could pass completely through the base material causing serious injury or death.
3. If the fastener sinks into the material with the hammer blow, the material is too soft and is unsuitable. If the material is too soft, the fastener can pass completely through and strike someone on the other side causing serious injury or death.
4. If the fastener makes a small indentation in the base the base material is suitable for fastening into.

DO NOT USE GAS-ACTUATED TOOLS FOR FASTENING INTO THESE MATERIALS

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Vertical mortar joints | 6. Hardened or tool grade steel |
| 2. Bricks | 7. Cast iron |
| 3. Hollow block or tile | 8. Welded areas or torch cuts |
| 4. Glazed tile | 9. Spring steel |
| 5. Glass | 10. Natural rock |

BASE MATERIAL THICKNESS AND CONDITION

Thickness of the base material is perhaps the most important consideration for good safe fastenings. In concrete, the thickness must be 3 times the shank penetration; in other words, for 1" of shank penetration, the concrete must be at least 3" thick. For fastening into steel, make sure the steel is flat and without irregularity.

GUIDELINES FOR SAFE FASTENING

GUIDELINES FOR SAFE FASTENING

1. **Never** Hold the tool at an acute angle to the work surface. The tool must be perpendicular (90° angle) to the work surface. Make certain that NO debris is present on the surface.
2. **Never** set a fastener too close to another installed fastener as this can cause a ricochet.
3. **Never** fasten less than 3" from the edge of unsupported concrete or masonry, or less than ½" from the edge of steel except for specific applications recommended by the tool manufacturer.
4. **Never** fasten into rough, spalled, cracked or uneven concrete. Fasten at least 3" from the outer edge of a spalled area.
5. **Never** fasten into material which is too hard, such as hardened steel, welds, cast steel, marble, spring steel, natural rock, etc. This could cause the fastener to shatter and escape and result in serious injury or death.
6. **Never** fasten into material which is too brittle, such as glass, glazed brick, glazed tile, slate, etc. This could cause the material to shatter and result in serious injury or death.
7. **Never** fasten into material which is too soft, such as wood, plaster, drywall composition board, plywood, etc. This could cause the fastener to pass through and escape resulting in serious injury or death.
8. **Never** fasten through an existing hole in any material as the fastener could hit the edge of the hole and ricochet. (Consult with the clip, attachment, or assembly manufacturer for installation instructions regarding specific products that list power-driven fasteners as a suitable attachment method.)
9. **Never** place your hand or any part of your body over the front of tool.
10. **Never** service a GCN tool with the battery or fuel cell installed.
11. **Never** point the tool toward any person.

PREPARE FOR LOADING

1. **Always** open the fuel compartment and make sure no fuel cell is present, and no battery is installed.
2. **Always** check to be sure that the tool is clean. Excessive dirt or debris can cause accidental firing or misfiring of the tool.
3. **Never** store fuel cells in or near flammable areas.
4. **Never** load fuel or operate the tool in an explosive atmosphere or where flammables are nearby.
5. **Never** use improper fuel cells or fasteners in the tool, as this may be unsafe or damage the tool.
6. **Always** insert the fastener(s) prior to loading the fuel cell and battery. Make sure you don't double load the fasteners.
7. **Never** allow bystanders to gather around you when using the tool.
8. **Never guess** – before fastening into any unknown base material, particularly into walls, perform the center punch test described in this manual.

PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR PROPER FASTENING

When operating the GCN150/GCN-MEP, always keep the tool perpendicular to the work surface. Attempting to install fasteners other than at a 90° angle can result in pin ricochet and cause:

- Injury to the user
- Injury to bystanders
- Damage to the tool
- Damage to the base material or attachment

FASTENING INTO CONCRETE AND MASONRY

Materials suitable for fastening into include:

- Poured concrete
- Precast concrete
- Pre-stressed concrete
- Grout-filled concrete block
- Grouted joints

Fasteners derive their holding power primarily from clamping of the concrete around the fastener. Factors that influence a fastener driven into concrete include:

- Depth of penetration
- Compressive strength of concrete
- Fastener spacing and edge distance
- Fastener shank diameter
- Concrete aggregate

FASTENER EDGE DISTANCE

Concrete: No less than 3" to nearest free edge.

MINIMUM DISTANCE BETWEEN FASTENINGS

No less than 3"

MINIMUM BASE MATERIAL THICKNESS

Concrete: No less than 3 times penetration depth of the fastener.

PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR PROPER FASTENING

FISH-HOOKING

“Fish-hooking” is when the fastener curves when driven into concrete. This is caused by the fastener hitting large, hard, or excessive amounts of aggregate, rebar, or any hard object. Fish-hooking can reduce the holding power of the fastener, result in spalling, and may increase unsafe conditions due to escaping particles. Fish-hooking can be minimized by:

- Reducing shank penetration
- Increasing shank diameter
- Fastening through a metal disc

FASTENING INTO STEEL

The most common type of steel base material is structural steel in the form of beam, angle iron, channel, tee, plate, and strip. The holding force of the fastener is a function of the gripping action of the steel base material around the fastener, and the fusion of the fastener to the base material.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THE HOLDING POWER OF FASTENERS IN STEEL ARE:

- Shank diameter: Larger shank diameters increase holding force
- Thickness of steel base material: Thicker base material increases holding force
- Fastener point penetration: Getting the point to pass through base material by approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " maximizes holding force
- Knurled fasteners: Knurling on the fastener provides interlocking of the shank and the base material which increases the holding force

FASTENER EDGE DISTANCE:

No less than $\frac{1}{2}$ " to nearest free edge.

MINIMUM DISTANCE BETWEEN FASTENERS:

No less than 1".

MINIMUM BASE MATERIAL THICKNESS:

No less than 22 ga. (0.0283"). Steel shall be flat and free of debris. **ONLY FASTEN INTO A FLAT SURFACE OF STEEL BASE MATERIAL.**

FASTENERS AND FUEL CELLS FOR GCN TOOLS

SELECTING FASTENERS AND FUEL CELLS

GDP Collated Pins (GCN-MEP tool requires GCN-MEPMAG)

Model No.	Description	Qty Pins/ pack +1 Fuel Cell	Compatible Gas-Actuated Nailer
GDP-50KT	.106 dia. x ½" pin	1,000	GCN150, GCN-MEP, TF1100, C3, C4
GDP-562KT	.106 dia. x ¾" pin	1,000	GCN150, GCN-MEP, TF1100, C3, C4
GDP-75KT	.106 dia. x ¾" pin	1,000	GCN150, GCN-MEP, TF1100, C3, C4
GDP-100KT	.106 dia. x 1" pin	1,000	GCN150, GCN-MEP, TF1100, C3, C4
GDP-125KT	.106 dia. x 1¼" pin	1,000	GCN150, GCN-MEP, TF1100, C3, C4
GDP-150KT	.106 dia. x 1½" pin	1,000	GCN150, GCN-MEP, TF1100, C3, C4

GDP Collated Step-Shank Pins (GCN-MEP tool requires GCN-MEPMAG)

Model No.	Description	Qty Pins/ pack +1 Fuel Cell	Compatible Gas-Actuated Nailer
GDPS-50	1.09"/1.11" dia. x ½" pin	1,000	GCN150, GCN-MEP, TF1100, C3, C4
GDPS-62	1.09"/1.11" dia. x ¾" pin	1,000	GCN150, GCN-MEP, TF1100, C3, C4
GDPS-75	1.09"/1.11" dia. x ¾" pin	1,000	GCN150, GCN-MEP, TF1100, C3, C4

GDP Collated Spiral-Knurled Pins (GCN-MEP tool requires GCN-MEPMAG)

Model No.	Description	Qty Pins/ pack +1 Fuel Cell	Compatible Gas-Actuated Nailer
GDPSK-138KT	.110 dia. X 1¾" spiral knurled pin	1,000	GCN150, GCN-MEP

Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Pins

All single-shot pins are .125" diameter and 1" in length unless specified.

Model No.	Description	Pack Qty.	Compatible Gas-Actuated Nailer
GRH25-R100	¼" Rod Hanger with Pin	100	GCN-MEP, T3
GRH37-R100	¾" Rod Hanger with Pin	100	GCN-MEP, T3
GCC50-R100	½" Conduit Clip w/Pin	100	GCN-MEP, T3
GCC75-R100	¾" Conduit Clip w/Pin	100	GCN-MEP, T3
GCC100-R100	1" Conduit Clip w/Pin	100	GCN-MEP, T3
GCC125-R50	1" Conduit Clip (13 Gauge Steel) w/ .125 Dia. x 1" Length Pin	50	GCN-MEP, T3
GCL50-R50	½" Conduit Clamp w/Pin	50	GCN-MEP, T3
GCL75-R25	¾" Conduit Clamp w/Pin	25	GCN-MEP, T3
GAC-R100	Angle Clip w/Pin	100	GCN-MEP, T3
GCT-R50	Tie Strap Holder w/Pin	50	GCN-MEP, T3
GW50-R200	½" Dome Washer with .110"/.128" Dia. x ½" length step-shank pin	200	GCN-MEP, T3
GW75-R200	½" Dome Washer w/ .125 Dia. x ¾" Length Pin	200	GCN-MEP, T3
GW100-R100	½" Dome Washer w/Pin	200	GCN-MEP, T3
GTS4-5075-R200	¼-20 thread, ½" length thread, ¾" length shank (.127" dia shank)	200	GCN-MEP, T3
GBR2-R25	2" Dia. Ring, w/Pin	25	GCN-MEP, T3
GTH-R200	Tophat Pin	200	GCN-MEP, T3

Gas Fuel Cells for GCN Tool

Model No.	Description	Pack Qty.	Packs/ Carton	Compatible with these Tools
GFC34	34 gram fuel cell	12	—	Simpson Strong-Tie® GCN-MEP and GCN-150 Others: TF1100, C3, C4
GFC34-RC2	(2) 34 gram fuel cells	2	6	Simpson Strong-Tie® GCN-MEP and GCN-150 Others: TF1100, C3, C4

GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GCN150 GAS-ACTUATED TOOL

LOADING THE GCN150 MAGAZINE WITH GDP STRIP PINS:



1. Slide up to (4) strips of GDP pins into the magazine



2. Pull back the pin feeder boot to the back of the magazine



3. Release the pin feeder boot behind the last pin. The feeder boot will automatically retract and engage the pins

The magazine is designed to retain two pins during use to prevent the tool from discharging without a fastener (which can damage the tool and possibly cause injury). The tool will resume normal operation when additional pins are loaded.

GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GCN150/GCN-MEP GAS-ACTUATED TOOL

LOADING A PREASSEMBLED FASTENER (GCN-MEP ONLY):

1. The GCN-MEP is a single-shot tool designed for preassembled fasteners, such as washered pins and clips.
2. When loading a fastener into the fastener guide, make sure no fingers are on the trigger, and the trigger is not depressed. Insert the fastener without forcing the fastener guide to depress and retract into the tool body.
3. When installing the fastener, make sure the tool is perpendicular (90° angle) to work surface.

CONVERTING THE GCN-MEP SINGLE SHOT TOOL INTO A MAGAZINE TOOL:



1. Push knob to extend the knob bolt.
2. Align the front of the magazine (model number GCN-MEPMAG) with the fastener guide and align knob bolt with knob bolt slot. Slide both into place.



3. Tighten the knob. The magazine is now installed.

GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GCN150/GCN-MEP GAS-ACTUATED TOOL

CHANGING THE FASTENER GUIDE:

With the magazine attached, the GCN-MEP tool can fire GDP series pins. The GDP pins have a smaller head diameter than the single shot preassembled pins, which requires changing the fastener guide. The fastener guide can easily be changed without tools, in seconds.



1. Remove the yellow plastic retaining clip that hold the fastener guide.



2. Slide the single-shot fastener guide off, and replace with the fastener guide for the GDP pins (fastener guide for GDP pins, is included in the magazine kit, model number MEP-MAG1KT).

GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GCN-MEP GAS-ACTUATED TOOL

LOADING THE GCN-MEP MAGAZINE (GCN-MEPMAG) WITH GDP STRIP PINS:



1. Pull back the pin feeder boot until it locks into place.



2. Slide up to (4) strips of GDP pins into the back of the magazine.



3. Release the pin feeder boot and slide it back until it is against the last pin.

The magazine is designed to retain two pins during use to prevent the tool from discharging without a fastener (which can damage the tool and possibly cause injury). The tool will resume normal operation when additional pins are loaded.

GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GCN150/GCN-MEP GAS-ACTUATED TOOL

PREPARING AND INSTALLING THE FUEL CELL (GFC34)



1. Remove safety cap from metering valve.



2. Insert front legs of metering valve inside top shoulder of fuel cell.



3. Push the back legs inside top shoulder of fuel cell until it snaps into place.



4. Place fuel cell into fuel compartment with meter valve end in the upward position.



5. Push the metering valve stem into the red triangle carburetor.

GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GCN150/GCN-MEP GAS-ACTUATED TOOL

INSTALLING THE BATTERY (GCN-PPA020)



The GCN150/GCN-MEP uses a 6-volt NiMH battery that can be fully charged in approximately two hours. Install the battery by pushing into place until it click-locks. To remove the battery, push the release tabs and pull the battery out.

Note: During extended periods of non-use, Simpson Strong-Tie recommends charging the battery for at least 15 minutes every three months for optimal battery life.

THE GCN-MEP TOOL HAS A BATTERY CHARGE INDICATOR LIGHT



1. When the light is solid green, the battery is fully charged.
2. When the light is flashing green, the battery charge is getting low.
3. When the light is orange/ red, the battery requires charging.

DEPTH CONTROL DIAL:



The GCN-MEP tool has a depth control dial that allows the operator to adjust the embedment depth of the fastener. Turn the dial towards the "+" symbol to increase the embedment depth or turn the dial towards the "-" symbol to reduce the embedment depth.

GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GCN150/GCN-MEP GAS-ACTUATED TOOL

INSTALLING THE TOOL BOOT FOR THE EXTENSION POLE:

The GCN-MEP tool and the GCN150 tool can be used for installing pins in overhead applications with an extension pole tool (model numbers PETG-6KT or PETG-8KT).



1. Remove the (4) bolts that secure the engine cover.
2. Align the bolt stems of the boot over the bolt holes on the engine cover, making sure the trigger hook is around the trigger.
3. While depressing the fastener guide against a firm surface, install the long engine cover bolts (supplied with the boot kit, model number PETG).

With the mount installed onto the GCN-MEP tool, the extension pole sections can be assembled onto the extension boot.

OPTIONAL TOOL FOOT INSTALLATION (GCN-MEP ONLY)

The optional rear foot can be installed onto the GCN-MEP to help keep the tool perpendicular to the work surface so that the installer only needs to keep the tool at a 90° angle to work surface from the side-to-side direction.



1. Remove lower fuel compartment hex nut, remove the bolt sleeve, and install the bolt sleeve included with the tool foot.
2. Fit the foot legs over fuel compartment, align holes in foot with bolt hole, and install the bolts provided with the foot.
3. The tool foot is now installed.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

Symptom	Cause	Solution
Over-driving Fasteners	Excessive power	Turn depth control dial (GCN-MEP only) towards the “-“ symbol
	Soft base material	Check base material – center punch test
	Pin too short for application	Use longer pin or washer pin
Tool does not fire	Tool not completely depressed	Firmly depress tool before firing
	Dead or weak battery	Replace or recharge battery
	Empty fuel cell	Replace with new GFC34 fuel cell
Reduction or loss of power	Piston is not returned to ready position	Clean tool and remove excess carbon built up in barrel
	Damaged seal	Replace worn parts*
Piston will not fully reset	Bent or damaged piston	Replace piston
	Other damaged parts	Tag the tool “Defective – Do not use”. Place the tool in a locked container, and contact your local Simpson Strong-Tie® representative
	Plastic debris on piston or in nosepiece	Remove piston, fastener guide and remove debris

* Should be performed by qualified individuals. Contact Simpson Strong-Tie.

GCN-MEPKT/ GCN150KT CONTENTS

GCN-MEPKT/ GCN150KT

Gas-Actuated Concrete Nailer Kit includes:

A GCN-MEP or GCN150 can be purchased as part of a larger kit. This kit includes:

- GCN nailer
- 2 batteries
- Battery charger
- Allen wrenches
- Safety glasses and ear plugs
- Operator's manual/tool schematic
- Rugged tool box



GCN-MEPKT

GCN-MEPMAGKT

Gas-Actuated Concrete Nailer Kit includes:

- GCN-MEPMAG Magazine
- 2 batteries
- Battery charger
- Allen wrenches
- Safety glasses
- Operator's manual/tool schematic
- Rugged tool box



MEP-MAG1KT sold separately

The magazine is designed to retain two pins during use to prevent the tool from discharging without a fastener (which can damage the tool and possibly cause injury). The tool will resume normal operation when additional pins are loaded.

EXTENSION POLE KIT



Extension Poles for GCN-MEP, GCN150

Model	Description	Length
PETG-6KT	Complete tool, with boot, handle and one extension	6 ft.
PETG-8KT	Complete tool, with boot, handle and two extensions	8 ft.
PETH2	Handle	2 ft.
PETG	Boot	N/A
PETS2	Pole extension	2 ft.
PETS4	Pole extension	4 ft.

LIMITED WARRANTY (ONE YEAR) ON SIMPSON STRONG-TIE® BRAND TOOLS

Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc. ("Simpson") provides this limited warranty to original purchaser. This product, if properly used and maintained in compliance with all instructions and warnings, will be free from substantial defects in material and manufacturing for one year from purchase date. Purchaser's sole remedy is replacement upon return to Simpson within one year of purchase (shipping prepaid).



WHERE LAWFUL, SIMPSON DISCLAIMS ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE BEYOND THIS WARRANTY PERIOD. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATION MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. WHERE LAWFUL, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL SIMPSON BE LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR SPECIAL

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