

GLUEMAX Tension Pullers

Operating Manual | Models DF-GMTP18 (18") and DF-GMTP36 (36")

Page 1 of 2

The GLUEMAX Tension Pullers relieve lateral tension in the panel so long creases and body line damage pull evenly during glue pull repair, while preserving OEM finishes. This manual covers both the 18" and 36" models. Read it completely before first use and keep it with the tool.

SAFETY FIRST

- Always wear safety glasses while gluing, tensioning, pulling, and releasing tabs.
- A tab can release suddenly under tension. Keep your face and body out of line with the bar while tension is applied.
- Apply tension gradually. Too much tension can distort the panel.
- Hot glue and glue guns cause burns. Isopropyl alcohol is flammable. Use good ventilation and keep it away from open flame.
- Identify the panel material and check the vehicle maker's repair information before you begin.

Know Your Tool

- **Tension Bar:** the main beam, with the drive mechanism enclosed inside.
- **Tension Knob:** turn by hand to spread the legs and set lateral tension.
- **Straight Legs:** the standard setup, with the feet directly under the bar ends.
- **Offset Legs:** angle the feet outward to widen the spread across the panel.
- **Feet and Tension Tabs:** the feet grip the raised spine of each glue-on tab.

Specifications

Models	DF-GMTP18 (18" bar) DF-GMTP36 (36" bar)
Adjustment	Hand knob, enclosed drive
Leg sets	Straight and Offset
Square Tension Tab	2" x 1.9" (5.2 x 4.8 cm)
Long Tension Tab	4.1" x 1.9" (10.5 x 4.8 cm)
Kit tabs	4 Square, 4 Long
Panels	Steel and aluminum

Choose Your Legs and Tabs

- Use the Straight Legs for focused tension on creases and smaller damage, and the Offset Legs for a wider spread across the panel on larger damage.
- To swap legs, pull the ring pin, slide the leg off, fit the new leg, and reinsert the pin fully.
- Long Tension Tabs spread the load along a crease or body line. Square Tension Tabs fit tighter areas.

Operation

STEP 1 Prepare the Surface

- Wipe each tab location and the face of each tab with 99% isopropyl alcohol. If there are transfer marks, polish first, then wipe again.
- Do not use petroleum-based cleaners on the panel or tabs. They leave a film that weakens the bond.
- Glue bonds best when the panel is between 75 and 90°F. Warming the tab locations to about 120°F removes moisture and helps the glue grab.

STEP 2 Glue and Place the Tension Tabs

- Heat the glue gun to the temperature recommended for your glue, usually 350 to 390°F. A light vapor as the glue leaves the nozzle is normal. If the glue bubbles, the gun is running too hot.
- Plan the setup first. Set the bar on the panel and mark where each foot will land, on solid metal outside the damage at each end, in line with the crease.

GLUEMAX Tension Pullers

- Cover the entire face of each tab with glue and seat it at its mark, with the raised spine facing the direction of the bar. Set it into the glue gently so the glue is not squeezed out.
- Wait for the glue to cool into the pulling window: below 90°F but not under 75°F. Warm glue is soft and stretches. Cold glue is brittle and can crack loose.

STEP 3 Set the Bar and Apply Tension

- Back the Tension Knob off so the feet reach both tabs, then seat each foot fully onto the spine of its Tension Tab.
- Turn the knob by hand to take up the slack, then keep turning in small increments to build lateral tension. Stop when the crease begins to relax. Do not force it.
- With tension held, pull the lows with a glue pull tool such as the GLUEMAX Mini Dent Lifter (DF-GM600SP) or GLUEMAX Mini Slide Hammer (DF-GMSH), and tap down highs with a blending hammer such as the Dent Fix Blending Hammer 4 PC Set (DF-BHSET).
- Adjust tension as the metal moves. Small changes at the knob give you fine control.

STEP 4 Release and Clean Up

- Turn the Tension Knob back to fully release tension, then lift the feet off the tabs.
- Apply isopropyl alcohol around the edge of each tab to free it. Never tear a tab off the panel.
- Lift off leftover glue with alcohol and a plastic scraper, then check the repair.

Temperature Quick Reference

Item	Target	Why it matters
Glue gun	350 to 390°F	Fully melts the glue so it can bond. Follow your glue maker's setting.
Panel working range	75 to 90°F	Glue adheres poorly to a cold or overheated panel.
Pre-warm pull area	About 120°F	Drives off surface moisture before gluing.
Glue at time of pull	75 to 90°F	Too warm is gummy. Too cold is brittle.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Likely cause	Fix
Glue lets go cleanly from the panel	Contaminated or cold surface	Clean again with 99% isopropyl alcohol and warm the area.
Glue stretches or strings during the pull	Pulled before the glue cooled	Wait until the glue drops below 90°F.
Tab lets go under tension	Weak bond, cold glue, or tension built too fast	Re-prep, warm the panel, re-glue, and tension in smaller steps.
Foot slips off the tab	Foot not fully seated on the spine	Release tension, reseat the foot, and tension again.

Care and Storage

- Wipe glue residue from the feet and tabs with isopropyl alcohol after each use, and store the kit clean and dry.
- Check that the knob turns smoothly and the ring pins seat fully before each job.
- Questions? Contact Dent Fix Equipment at info@dentfix.com or 310-349-1940, or visit dentfix.com.