

# SPC-2 Specimen Cutter for ASTM F-88 Seal Strength Testing

## The Problem

Medical device manufacturers using the ASTM F-88 test method often struggle to produce accurate, consistent test specimens. Many operators still cut samples by hand with razor blades and a straightedge, resulting in dimensions that frequently fall outside the  $\pm 0.02$ -inch tolerance required by ASTM F-88. This variation creates significant data scatter that can be difficult to interpret and may even produce false positives, putting the entire sterile barrier validation plan at risk. In addition, manual cutting exposes operators to injury from unprotected blades during specimen preparation.

## The Solution

Validating a sterile barrier system for a device delivered sterile at the point of care demands precision and repeatability. Our SPC-2 pouch specimen cutting scissors enable operators to produce uniform specimens every time, fully within ASTM F-88 dimensional requirements and independent of user technique. Their ease of use encourages more frequent and expanded testing, improving data confidence. The SPC-2 also enhances operator safety by eliminating exposed blades and provides better ergonomics for extended specimen preparation.



## Fast, accurate, and safe specimen preparation for medical device pouches

The SPC-2 is an ASTM F-88-ready pouch cutter designed to help medical device manufacturers prepare tensile/peel test specimens quickly, safely, and consistently. By streamlining specimen preparation, the SPC-2 shortens test cycles and encourages more frequent seal-strength testing.

## Prepare Test Samples Faster and Safer

Tensile/peel testing is one of the most effective ways to monitor sealing equipment performance and detect seal-value drift. Cutting samples by hand with a razor is slow, inconsistent, and introduces unnecessary safety risks.

The SPC-2 eliminates those issues. Its guided cutting action produces a precise 1-inch specimen for ASTM F-88 testing in seconds. The rigid, overbuilt frame prevents flexing that could distort sample dimensions, helping you maintain consistent, repeatable data. Faster, safer specimen prep supports more frequent testing and stronger process control.

## Accuracy You Can Trust

Dimensional accuracy is critical when preparing specimens for ASTM F-88 testing. The SPC-2 maintains a tight tolerance of 25 mm (1")  $\pm 0.2$  mm. Its solid construction ensures the cutter stays true over time with basic care, supporting reliable DOE development and long-term quality assurance.

## Built-In Safety

The SPC-2 is a safer alternative to open-blade cutting tools. Blunt ends help prevent accidental sticks or cuts that could lead to hand injuries or blood-borne exposure risks. It's a simple, effective way to protect operators while improving test consistency.

## Rugged Performance for Daily Use

Engineered for durability, the SPC-2 specimen cutter delivers years of accurate performance. The ergonomic handle design reduces hand fatigue during large DOE runs or high-volume testing environments. Its robust architecture ensures accuracy doesn't drift over time.

## Tools From Our Laboratory

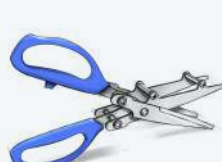
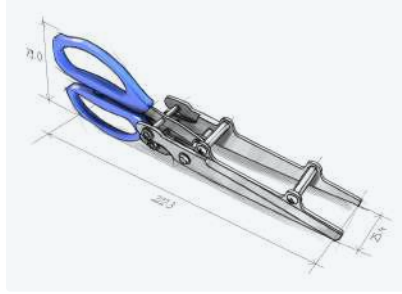
As an ISO-17025 accredited medical device pouch testing and calibration laboratory, we use the same tools we provide to our customers. Many of our patented systems were developed in-house in our ISO-17025 accredited laboratory to support the industry's mission of delivering safe, sterile medical devices to the point of care. The SPC-2 is part of that commitment.

## Increase Testing Throughput

Frequent pouch testing is one of the most effective ways to prevent packaging-related recalls. The SPC-2 is designed to accelerate the ASTM F-88 workflow, helping teams move toward daily testing without adding operational burden. For many packaging engineers, it has become the preferred tool for efficient, compliant specimen preparation.

## Specifications

Weight	182g 0.4 pounds	
Entire length	222mm 8.74 inches	
Flute length (effective length)	70mm 2.76 inches	
Material	Blade body	SUS420 J2 electrolytic polishing finish
	Handle	Thermoplastic elastomer
Tolerance	25.4mm (1") $\pm 0.2$ mm	



## Instructions

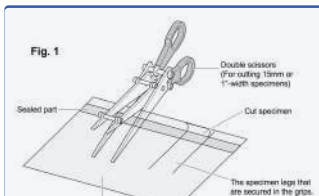
Thank you for purchasing the SPC-2 specimen cutter designed for creating compliant seal specimens when performing the ASTM F-88 peel/tensile test. Please note that the cutter may feel stiff due to the resistance of the 4 blades. For best results please follow the use instructions below. Remember that the blades for SPC2 are very sharp and you should handle and use this device with great care. If you have questions regarding the use of the SPC-2 please contact technical support 800-550-3854

### Cut Specimens

- There are two types of double scissors: Those that cut specimens in 15mm-width, and those that cut in 1 inch-width. Cut the sealed film or bag using the desired width double scissors. (See Fig. 1)

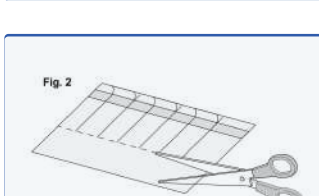
**Attention!** Depending on the film/bag material, it may have slack when cutting with the double scissors. The specimen width may end up slightly wider than the width specified.

**Attention!** The angle of scissor blades must be perpendicular to the direction of seal.



- Cut the leg part of specimen as shown in Fig. 2 using normal scissors.

**TIPS** The length of specimen legs depends on the grip distance of the peel tensile tester. See the instructions below.

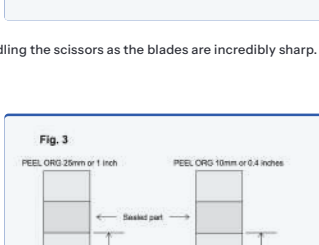


Take care not to cut your hand or fingers when handling the scissors as the blades are incredibly sharp.

### Specimen size

Cut the specimen legs in the dimensions shown in Fig. 3. With the given leg length, it is easy to set the specimen into the thin-film grips at each distance.

**Attention!** There will be no impact on the test results even if the leg length varies slightly among specimens.



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