

# Door opening Techniques

In this paper we are going to have a brief look at door opening techniques, one thing to take into account is that there are many different ways we can manage a door during a rescue, this is but one.

One persons method can be very different to another, the key methodology to take into account is that, no, one, technique is wrong, as long as the door is managed in a systematic, effective and timely way, then they are all correct, in most situations personal preference through experience and continuous outcomes will in most cases lead to the same method being used for door removal/relocation.

With that said, the key to being effective on the tools is being able to adapt and use the tools to relocate the metal/objects to the desired outcome by effective use and manipulation of the equipment to make the object move and react in a direction that enables the outcome to be achieved using many different techniques.

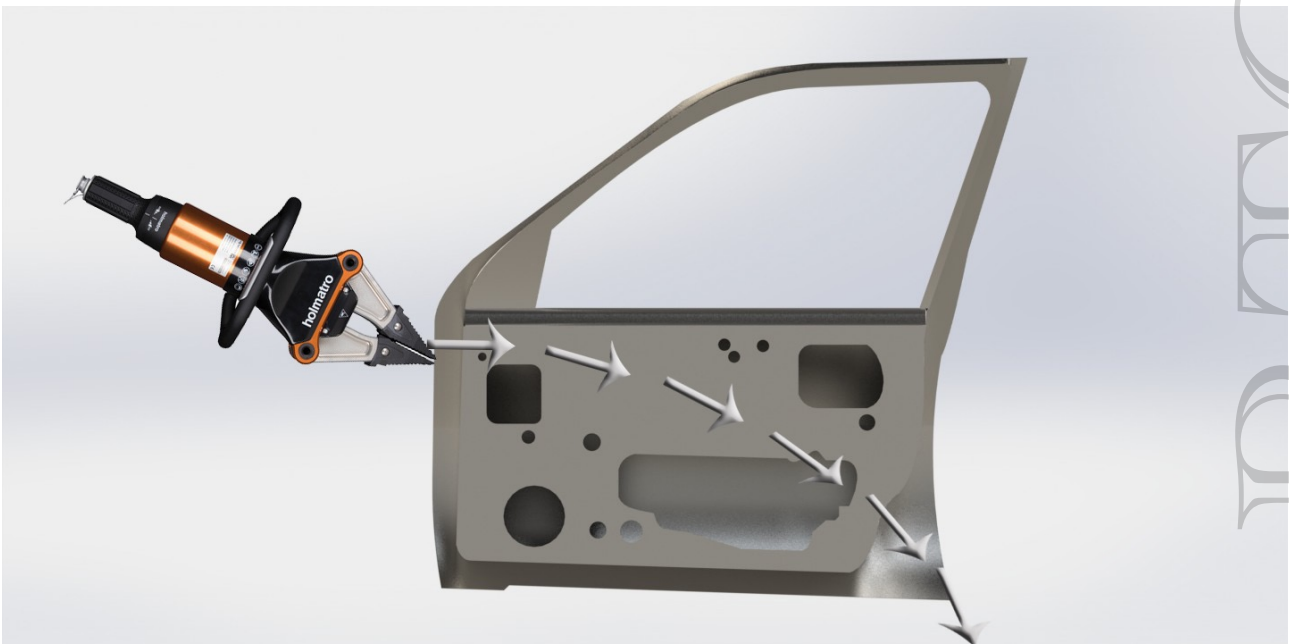
A skilled user will be able to use the tool in different positions to make the object react and move in a direction that they have planned for.

If the door is moving in a direction that may have an adverse effect by moving the vehicle or in such a way that those supporting the door can no longer maintain control, it is the situational awareness and skill of the tool user that can control these movements by simply re-positioning the tool. This alone comes with experience and regular training.

If we take a hinge attack, past teaching suggests we take the following approach.

Above the top hinge and then below the bottom as this allows the user to place the spreader against the strong parts of the vehicle for good purchase (dash cross member and base of the sill)

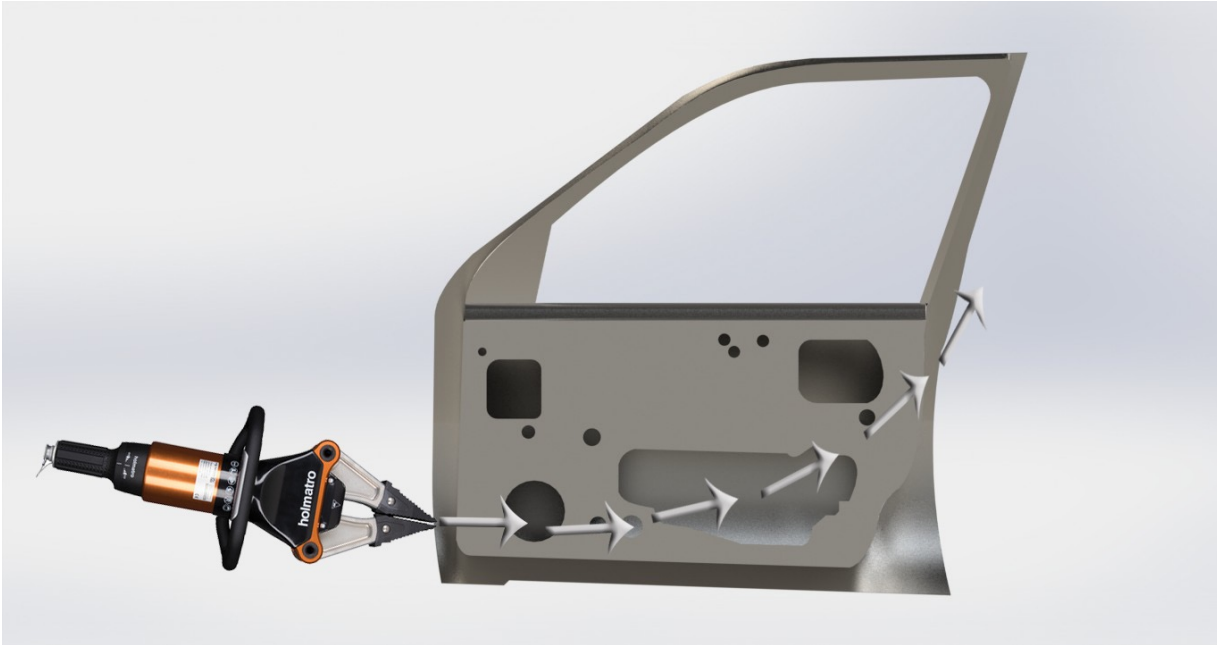
This is a tried and tested method, but with limited experience can cause the door to move in a way we may not be expecting or with over zealous tool operation can cause the door to make contact with the ground.



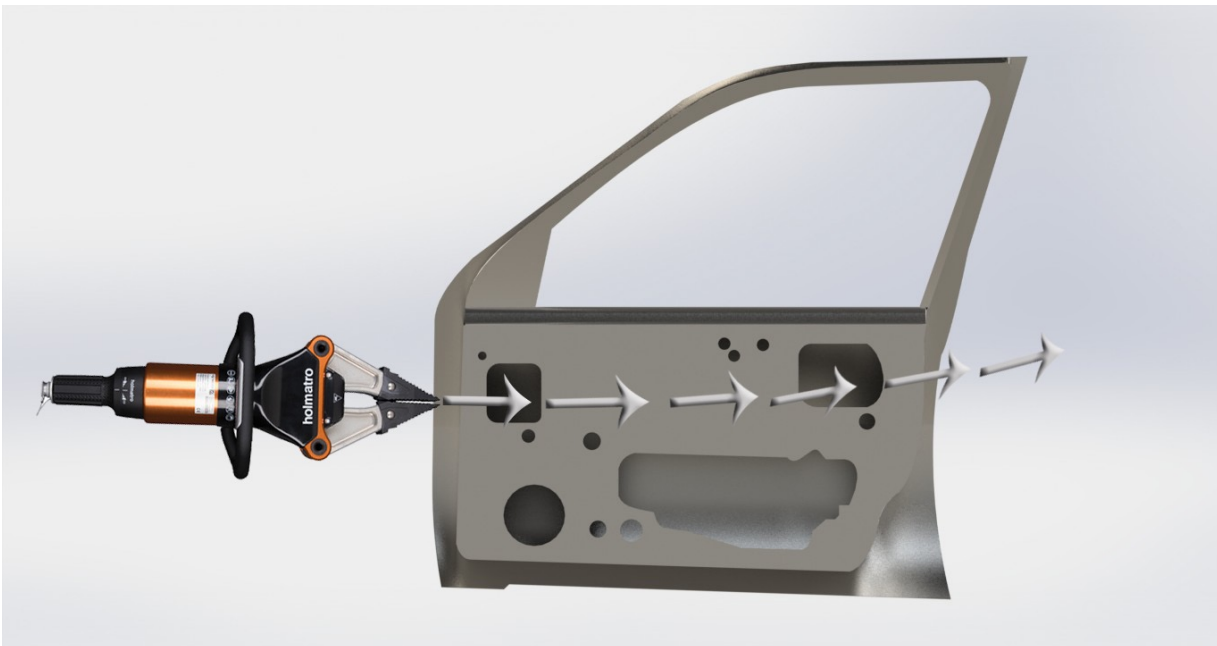
In the same way approaching from the lower hinge can cause the door to move uncontrollably upwards.

This is where experience and technique comes into play.

Once we see this movement happening, in most cases we can get away with it, but where the door is moving outside the boundaries of control we need to adjust the tools position to make the door move where we want it to and regain control.



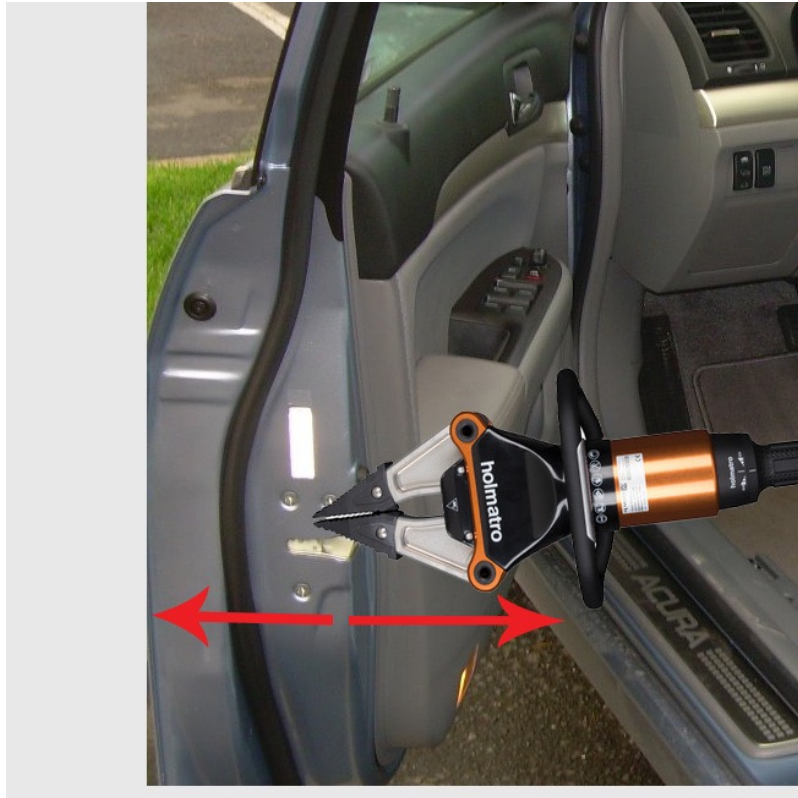
By adjusting the spreading position we can make the door move where we want it to, this is the beauty of extrication, in most cases 'we' facilitate the outcomes.



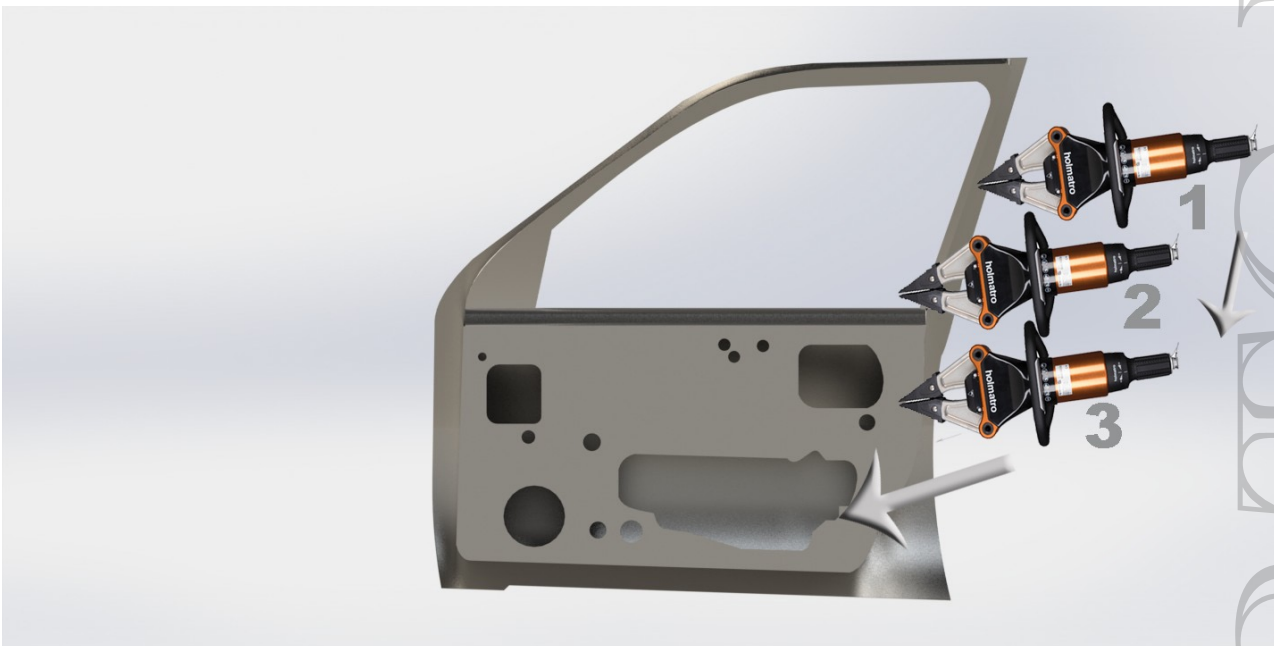
Here we can see that by changing the tool position we change the doors movement path.

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When approaching a door from the lock side a common approach is to attack the door directly at the lock. This has its fair share of problems, mainly it can cause the door to rip from its welds with the skins being spread whilst the latch is still attached.



A simple solution that works in most cases is to start above the door hinge at the door cap/frame and gradually move down so that eventually the spreader tips are spreading the whole of the door outwards and not just some of the skins.



This option is just one of many and does not always work, it does at least give us a good starting point to work from.

If you carry them as part of your inventory you can apply sponge balls to hold the door handles both external and internal open, this greatly assists with reducing the burst mechanism from holding the door closed.

One final thought; when spreading a door open make sure you spread the door in its natural line of movement and not against it.

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