Math Trades 1 Activity #9 – Trigonometry Bolt Hole Circle

Name ______



In this activity, we will lay out a bolt hole circle on paper to match the metal one shown by your instructor. We will use trigonometry to determine the correct distance between the centers of two consecutive holes. Use the blueprint on the back of this page as a reference.

- 1. On a separate piece of paper, using the compass and combination square to measure the radius, draw a circle with a radius of 4".
- 2. Also lightly draw circles with a radius of 3.5" and one with a radius of 2.5".
- 3. Draw a vertical line straight up from the center of the circle.
- 4. Draw circles with .5" diameters where the vertical line intersects the 3.5" radius circle and the 2.5" radius circle.
- 5. Now, to determine where the next circles will be around the 3.5" radius circle, determine the distance between two consecutive holes using trigonometry. Use the blueprint to determine the number of holes.

- 6. Using the distance between two circles in number 5, mark the centers of the remaining holes using the combination square and then by sketching little arcs with the compass. What method do seems to be more accurate?
- 7. Draw .5" diameter circles around each of the centers found.
- 8. Repeat steps 5-7 for the 2.5" radius circle.
- 9. Carefully, cut out the circles if time allows. Hold the paper version of your bolt hole circle up to the metal version to verify your calculations and measurements.



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