

Altoids® Installation Tutorial

Excerpted From the EZKeyer Manual

Punching and Labelling an Altoids® Tin

Label application and center punching hole locations.

The Altoids label is applied at this point in the construction because it provides the template for locating the push button and stereo jack holes. The holes should be punched if possible. If you have experience drilling Altoids tins, that process may be employed also. Punching with a tool such as [these](#) is recommended, as it's safer and more accurate in my experience. If needed, a little material can be ground or filed off the nose of the punch so as to be able to bottom the tool and punch holes exactly 1/4 inch (midway) up from the bottom of the tin.

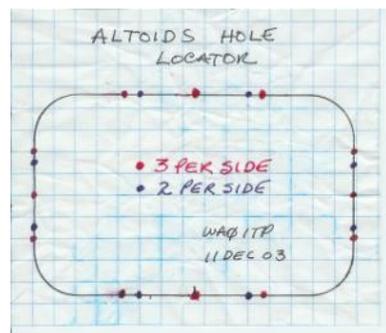
Apply your label according to the application instructions [detailed here](#). slides showing the process may be downloaded [here](#) [These pictures](#) may help also.

Now that the label has been applied to the top of the tin. It's time to create the holes for the push buttons and jacks. The procedure below details the punching method. It is assumed that if you decide to drill your tin, you already have a procedure that works for you. As mentioned before, punching an Altoids® is considered more accurate, safer, and much much faster.

Mark the stereo jack hole locations on the RH end of the tin. Use this hole locator template to mark the locations with a fine tip permanent marker. Click the picture to print it at actual size.



Then mark the vertical location 1/4" up from the bottom.



Another useful tool is a 2 x 2 block of wood with a notch in one end. It backs up the tin while center punching the holes. Clamp in a vice and it will make cleanly center punching the holes much easier.



Center punching the holes

A deck or drywall screw makes a good center punch. The sharp point allows accuracy in placing the mark, and a light tap with a file or piece of 1 x 2 wood is all that's needed to create the dimple. I suggest not using a hammer. The light touch and sharp point enhances accuracy.

Altoids® Installation Tutorial

Excerpted From the EZKeyer Manual

Punching and Labelling an Altoids® Tin



The push button hole locations are noted by the 3 small circles on the label. lightly dimple their centers.

Then dimple the jack locations on the end. This picture illustrates the difference between center punching and dimpling.



Punching the holes is now easily accomplished.

First, grasp the punching tool thusly. This grip provides complete control

Punch the stereo jack holes first. They' will provide practice before doing the push button holes.



Screw the 1/4" die in the bottom jaw, and insert the 1/4" punch in the top (movable) jaw. If you have the metric version use the 6mm set. You will have to gently use a round file or tapered reamer to slightly enlarge the holes for the jack's threads. Slide the end of the tin into the jaw taking care not to scratch it with the point on the punch.



The key to accurate punching is to bring the tin to the punch and nestle the dimple on the point of the punch before squeezing.

Another important item is to make sure the punch can penetrate the die far enough to punch the hole cleanly. Practice on a piece of card stock if you're uncertain of the depth needed..

If you've followed the above tips, you now have a nice round hole properly placed for one of the jacks. After doing the other two, the tin should look like this.



Altoids® Installation Tutorial ***Excerpted From the EZKeyer Manual***

Punching and Labelling an Altoids® Tin

Punching the push button holes As mentioned previously the key to accurate punching is to bring the tin to the punch, nestle the dimple on the point of the punch, then squeeze. Punching the push button holes is as easy as the doing the stereo jack holes. You'll have to accommodate the lip of the lid by opening the jaws a wide as possible, and you'll be punching directly through the label.

Screw the 5/32" die in the bottom jaw, and insert the 5/32" punch in the movable jaw. If you have a metric punch use the 4mm set, no filing or reaming will be necessary.



Ensure that the die doesn't protrude into the space between the jaws, see picture on the left.

Carefully feed the tin's lid into the jaws, then screw the die further in so that the slots are flush with the hole, as in the picture on the right. This enables the tool to punch the hole.



Nestle the center punch dimple onto the point of the punch and squeeze. It's as simple as that.

Do the other two holes and your tin should look like this.



If you're not satisfied with your first effort, try another one. It 's cheap, quick, and EZ. All good ham radio characteristics :o)

Links To Suitable hand Punches

[Grizzly](#)

[Northern](#)

[Back To Page 5](#)