

American Button Machines

1.25" and 3" Button Makers



Introduction: The Maker Studio has two sizes of button maker, 1.25" and 3". Each of these is equipped to make the buttons with a pin back or a magnetic back. The 1.25" can also be turned into a keychain and the 3" can support a magnetic badge finding.

General information

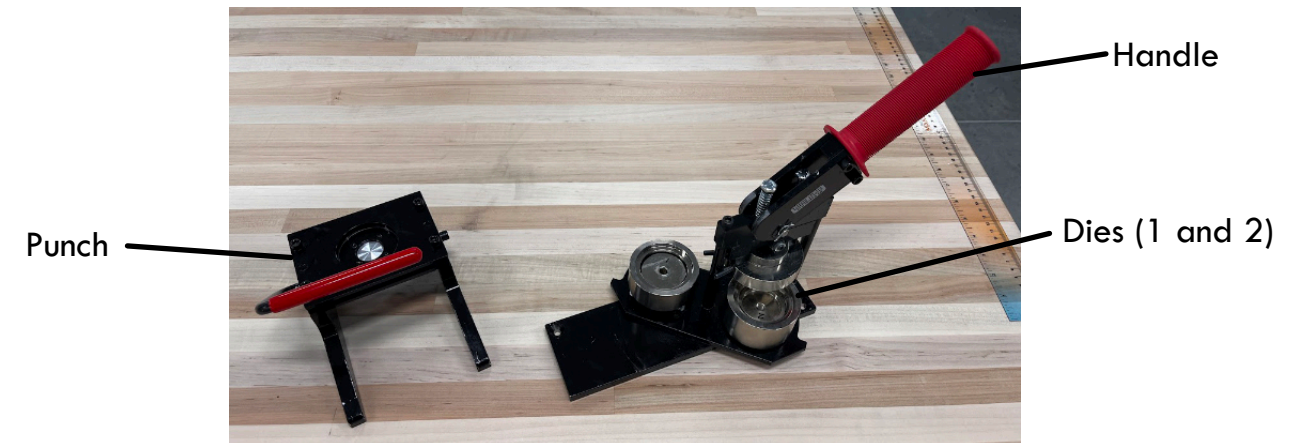
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General information

Parts of the machine

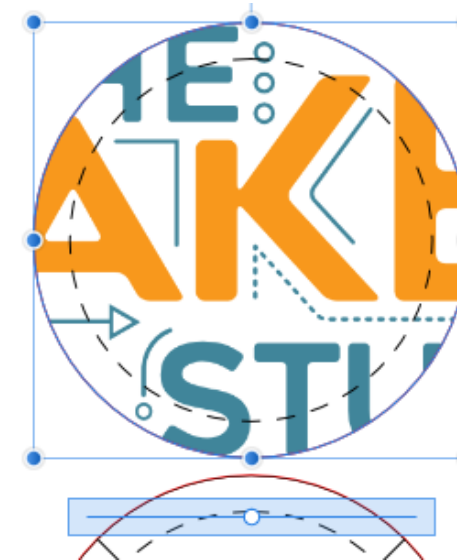


Preparing your design

We have a template created using Affinity Publisher that allows you to add multiple images per sheet when making buttons. There are two separate files (one for each size of button) and they are available on the desktop of any of our design computers.

The following process is the same for either size of button.

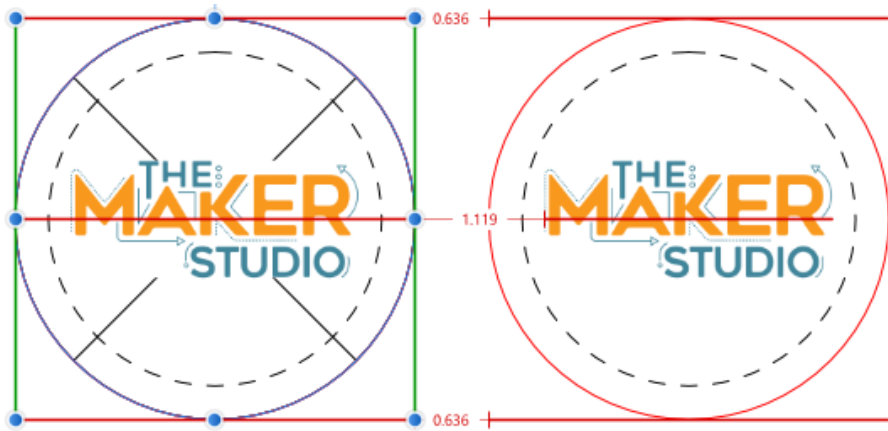
1. Open the template you wish to use based on the size button.
2. Locate the image you want to use with the button maker. Drag this file from the File Explorer onto one of the circular image frames (with an X through them). You can also use File > Place to put these pictures into the frames.



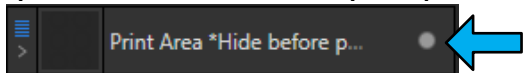
3. If your design is larger or smaller than you want, you can drag the slider under the image left or right to adjust the zoom until your design is as you want. Note, anything outside of the dashed line will not show on the front side of the button, so make sure the design you have fits within that area.



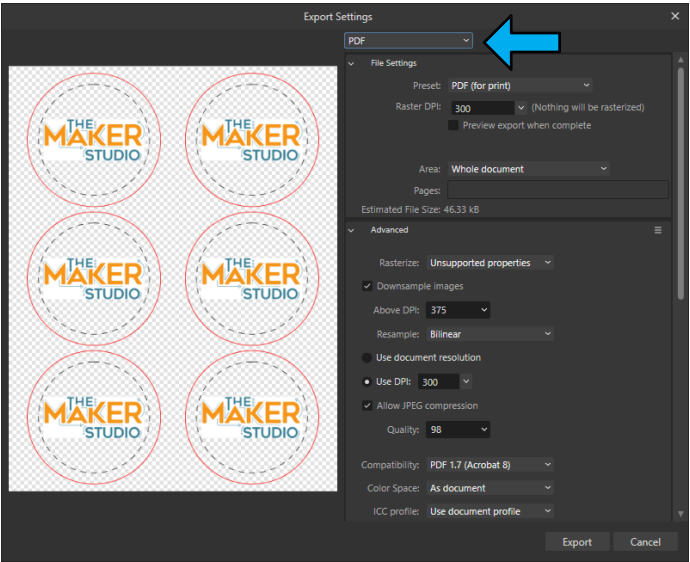
4. If you need to make multiple copies of this design, click the circle around your design and copy it. Once you paste it, you can drag the newly placed design (it will paste in the exact same spot as where you copied it) over to another spot. With snap enabled, you should be able to easily overlap this new design with another circle already on the page.
- a. You may delete any unwanted circles from your design if you wish.
5. Once all your images are set the way you want, find the layers panel on the right side bar



6. Click on the light gray dot on the row for “Print Area.” This will remove all of the dashed lines from the document so you don’t see them on your printed page.



7. Next, choose File > Export to export your design. Select PDF from the list and ensure the preset is “PDF (for print).” Then click Export.



8. Open your exported PDF and select File > Print.
9. Cut your page into strips so that there is only one column of blanks per strip. This will then allow you to use them with the paper punch.



Making buttons

Making a pin back button

Regardless of the backing you are using, the front side of each button remains the same. This section will describe how to do the front side of a button using the 1.25" size button maker. But the process remains the same for the 3" button maker as well.

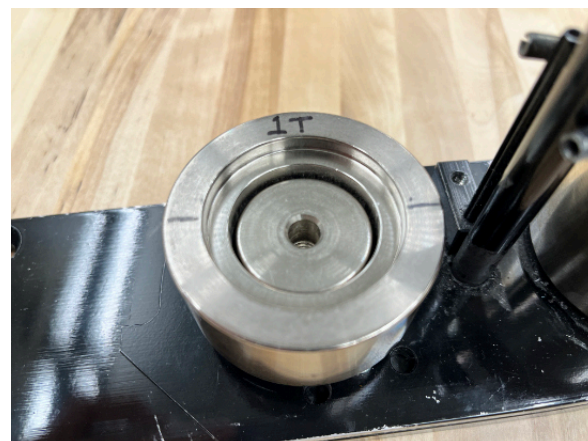
1. Take the punch and slot the paper into it. Align the red circle of your design to the opening on the punch. Pull down the handle to punch the paper. Reaching from underneath you can pop the punched paper out and then set the punched design aside.



2. Take the button maker and place it so that the handle is to your right and it's going sideways in front of you.

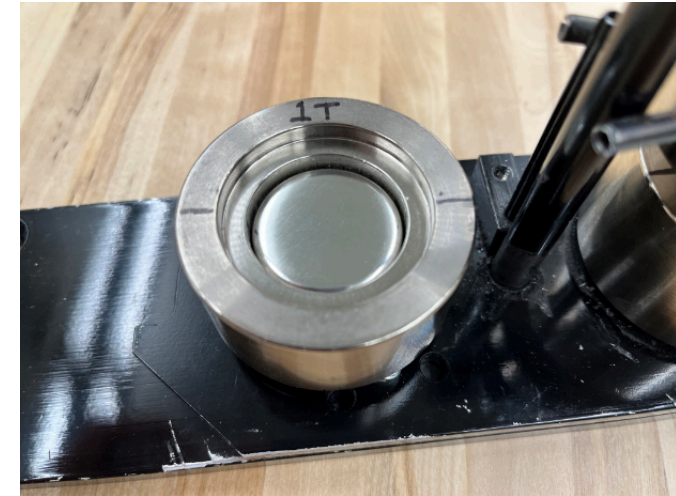


3. Rotate the center dies until you see the side labeled 1. Set that all the way on the left side so the dies are locked in place.



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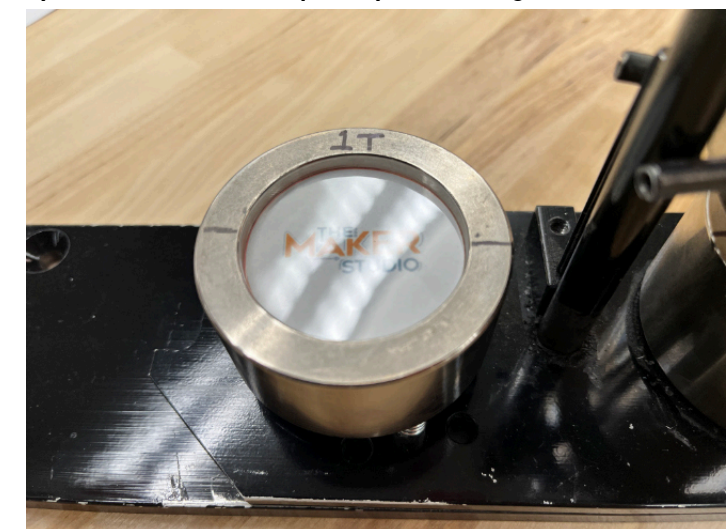
4. Place a shell with the curved side facing up into this area. Be sure to place only one shell.



5. Place your punched design with the top of your design at the top of the circle.



6. Then place a clear Mylar sheet over top of your design.

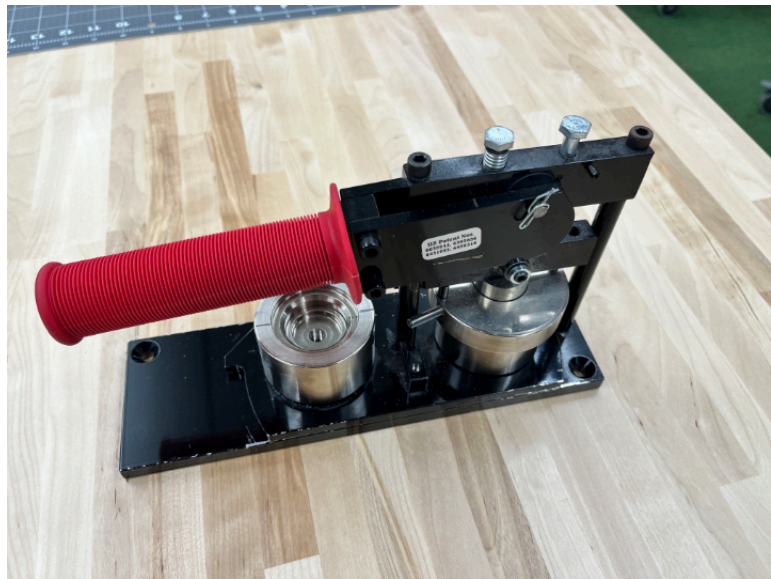


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7. Rotate the die 180 degrees so that it sits under the handle.



8. Press the three pieces together by rotating the handle to the left all the way. Then you can return the handle back to the right.



Using a Pin Back

When adding a pin back, the process is largely identical for both sizes. There is one extra consideration for 3” buttons which is noted below.

1. In the side labeled 2, place a pin back. Place it so that the pin side is facing down and the wavy wire is going from left to right in the die.



a. Note, the 3” button pin backs matter on the orientation. Ensure that the pin is weighted toward the edge where the top of your design was located in the first step.



2. Rotate the die 180 degrees again and press the handle down to the left once again. Release the handle to the right and rotate the dies out to retrieve your finished button.



Using a 1.25” magnet

1. Place a ring back into side 2 with the sharp edge facing up.



2. Rotate the dies 180 degrees and press the handle down to the left once again. Release the handle to the right and rotate the dies out to retrieve your pressed magnet shell.



3. Take a magnet and peel the paper off the back of it revealing the sticky side.



4. Place the magnet into the shell with the sticky side inside the shell. Press firmly to adhere the sticky side to the shell.



Using a 1.25" keychain back

1. Place a ring back into side 2 with the sharp edge facing up.



2. Rotate the dies 180 degrees and press the handle down to the left once again. Release the handle to the right and rotate the dies out to retrieve your pressed magnet shell.



3. Take the three parts of the keyring backing. The black Versaback piece, the keyring, and the white tab.



4. Insert the wider end of the white tab into the hole at the top of the Versaback piece. Then loop the keyring overtop of the white tab.



5. Fold the white tab over so that the smaller pin seats into the wider tube on the other end, closing the loop. Press firmly to connect.



6. Take the button and place the Versaback into the opening at the back of the button and press firmly to connect.



Using a 3" magnet

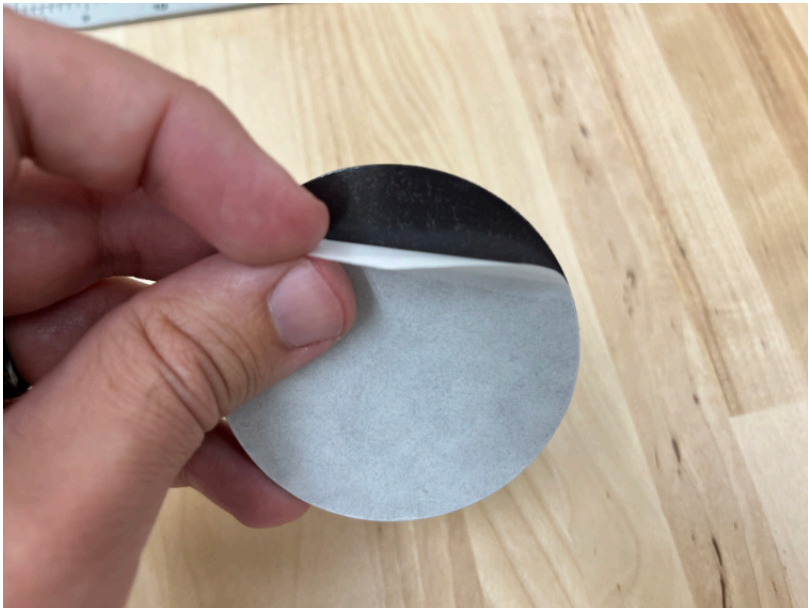
1. Place a magnet back into side 2 with the grooved edge facing down.



2. Rotate the dies 180 degrees and press the handle down to the left once again. Release the handle to the right and rotate the dies out to retrieve your pressed magnet shell.



3. Take a magnet and peel the paper off the back of it revealing the sticky side.

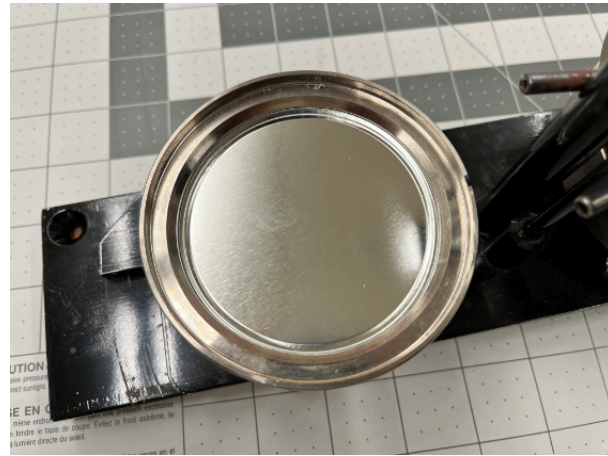


4. Place the magnet into the back with the sticky side attached to the shell. Press firmly to adhere the sticky side to the shell.



Adding a badge finding

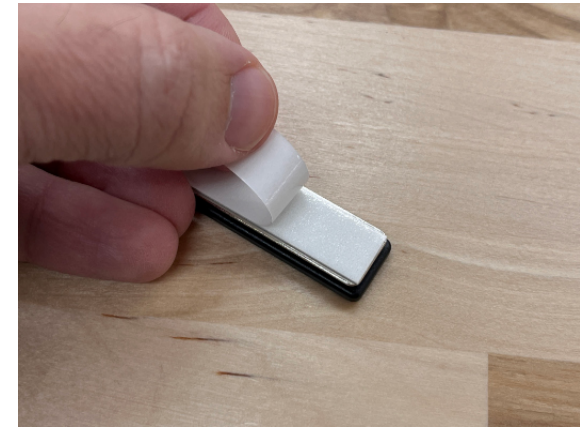
1. Place a magnet back into side 2 with the grooved edge facing down.



2. Rotate the dies 180 degrees and press the handle down to the left once again. Release the handle to the right and rotate the dies out to retrieve your pressed magnet shell.



3. Take the badge finding and remove the tape from the sticky portion.



4. Ensuring you're placing this at the top side of your button, place the sticky side down and press firmly. You can now place the magnetic side on the plate.

