

How to Guide: Using a Button Maker



Learn It, Lead It!

Integrating Art-Based Practice
in Settlement and Healthcare



Access Alliance
Multicultural Health and Community Services

How to Use a Button Maker?

A button maker or button press is a machine with the ability to make pin-back buttons, magnets, keychains and more. At Access Alliance, art-based programs use a variety of tools and materials to further the mission of healthcare and mental health activities. Button Making is an approach to art-making!

Integrating Button Making

- Participants design a button in response to a prompt question (e.g. What does a healthy relationship look like? What is a strength quote offers encouragement?)
- Buttons can be used to enhance an event or program as a “take away” for participants reminding them of what they learnt.

Button Maker Steward Responsibilities

- Completing a 30 min. training by art-based program team on how to use the button maker.
- Ensuring all assisting volunteers know how to use the button maker and how to support engaged participants.
- Ensuring all materials are organized and stored properly in the button maker box at the end of event or activity.

Preparation

- Use thin card stock or craft paper
- Sample provided in button maker box
- Prepare circle cut-outs prior to use for an event or activity
- Decorate button using markers, pencil crayons, oil pastels, etc.



Let's get started!

Below are brief instructions on how to use the Access Alliance button maker. "Button Maker Stewards" are designated leaders to use the button maker alongside participants.

TIPS & TRICKS

- Following **Step 9**, if backing has not attached to button, repeat the steps again with a brand new tin and clear plastic round.
- When following steps 1-3, **ensure all layers are flat in the mould.**
- Approximately **3mm of the perimeter of the button design will not be visible** on the face of the final product.
- When using metal backing, please **place the green ring** in the right mold **between Steps 5 and 6**. Use of the plastic backing does not require the green ring.



1) Place a **tin round (without pin)** in the **left mould**, with the rim side facing down.



2) Place your **button design** over the tin round, design facing up.



3) Place a **clear plastic round** over the button design.



4) Slide the **left mould** underneath the **top mould**.



5) Pull the lever down all the way until you hear a click. **The button design should no longer be in the left mould.**



6) Place the **metal backing** in the **right mould** with safety pin facing down.



7) Slide the **right mould** underneath the **top mould**.



8) Pull the lever down all the way (there will be no click).



9) Slide the right mould back out. **Your button should be in the mould!**