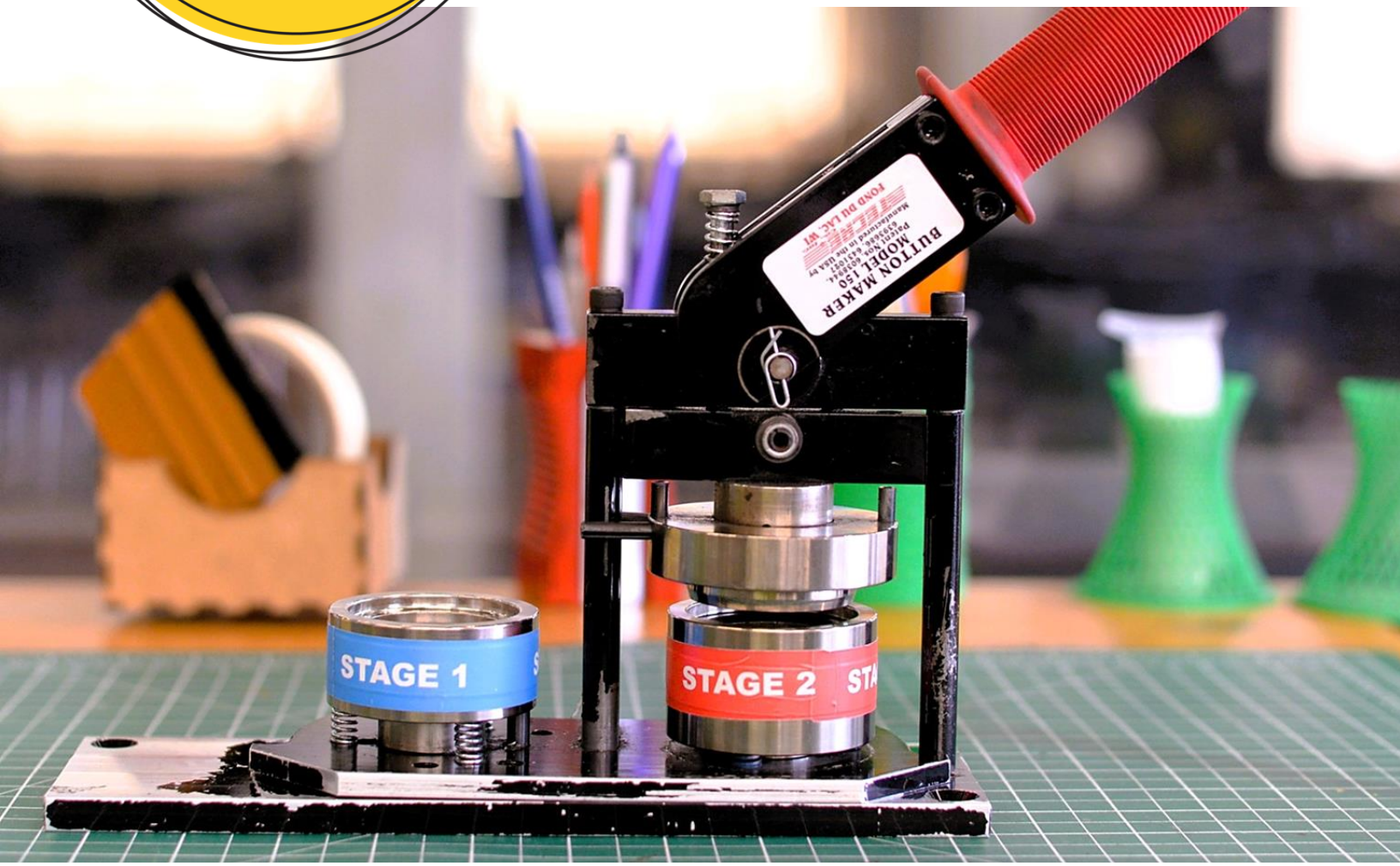
Button Maker Guide

BM-150



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Before You Start

What does the button maker do?

A button maker is a mechanical press that combines several parts to create a finished button. The machine compresses a metal shell, design paper, protective plastic layer, and backing together to form a durable button.

Buttons can be made with either a **pin backing** or a **magnet backing**, depending on the materials used.

Before using the button maker, your design must be prepared and cut to the correct size using the die cutter. Cutting a design out by hand is not recommended as it can jam the button press.

What can you make with the button maker?

The button maker can be used to create a variety of button projects, including:

- **Custom Buttons**: Badges, event buttons, or campaign pins.
- **Magnets**: Decorative or promotional fridge magnets.
- **Name Tags**: Simple personalized badges.
- **Promotional Items: A**rtwork, logos, or branding.

This makes it a popular tool for creative projects, events, and small promotional materials.

What to Expect

- **Average project time:** 10–20 minutes
- **Skill level:** Beginner-friendly
- **Preparation:** Designs must follow the button template.

Software & Files

Button designs can be created using many different design programs. Common options include:

- Canva
- Photoshop
- CorelDRAW
- GIMP

Designs can also be colored by hand on a printed template sheet.

Safety

Although the button maker is simple to operate, it still uses mechanical force to compress materials.

Crush / Compression Risk

The button maker uses a **mechanical press** to crimp metal components together.

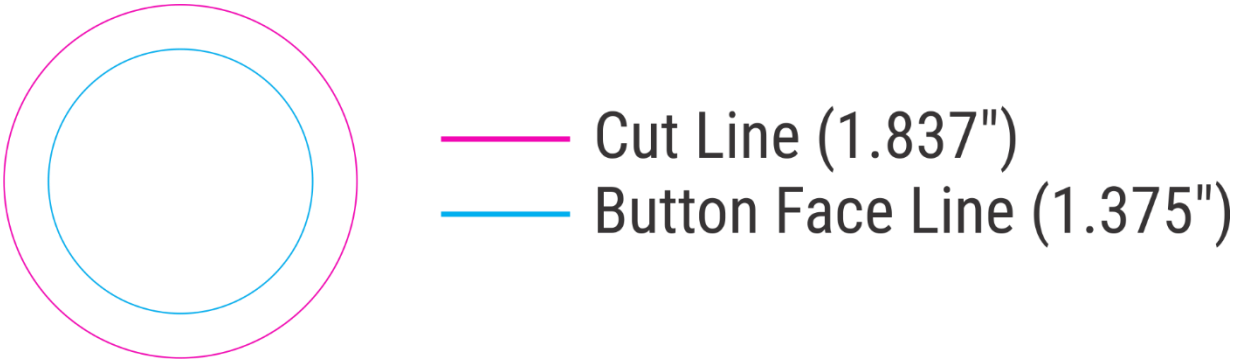
- Keep fingers away from the dies while operating the handle.
- Only press the handle when materials are correctly placed in the die.
- Operate the handle slowly and with controlled pressure.

Getting Started

Design Requirements

- The **Button Face Line (1.375")** indicates the front area of the button.
- The **Cut Line (1.837")** shows where the design will be cut.
- The area between these lines will wrap around the edge of the button.

It is important that all critical parts of the design remain inside the **Button Face Line**, otherwise they may not be visible on the finished button.



A diagram showing the Cut Line in pink and the Button Face Line in blue.

1. Prepare Your Design

Before cutting your design:

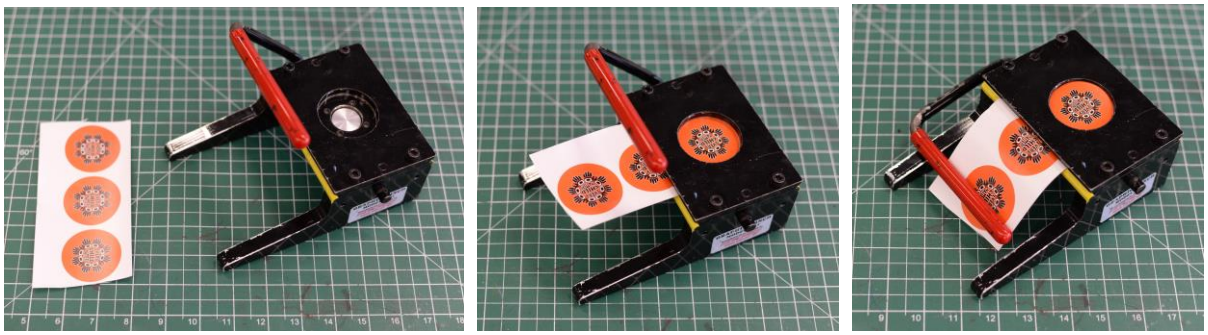
- Confirm the design follows the Button Template.
- Ensure important artwork stays inside the Button Face Line.
- Print your design on paper.

Once printed, the design must be cut into a circle using the **button die cutter**.

2. Cut Your Design

1. Trim the printed sheet into small strips so each design can fit into the die cutter slot.

2. Insert your printed paper into the **slot of the die cutter**.

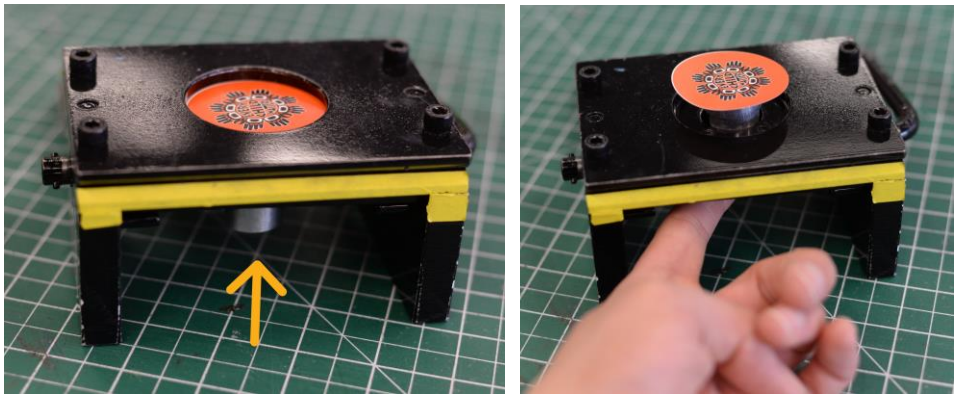


A series of photographs showing how to insert the printed paper.

3. Align the design so the image appears centered in the circular cutting area.

4. Press the **red handle down** to cut the paper.

5. Lift the silver aluminum post on the underside of the cutter to help release the paper.



Two photographs showing how to release the paper.

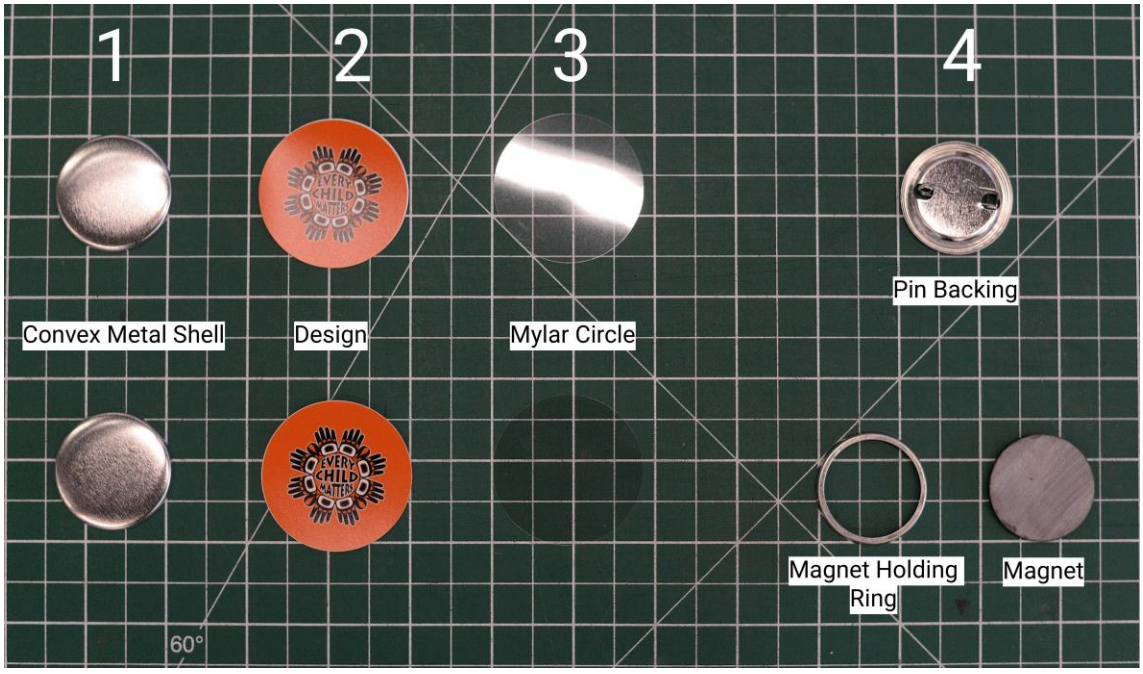
3. Button Parts

Several components are required to make a button. All button types include:

1. **Convex Metal Shell***:* The front metal piece of the button.
2. **Printed Design: T**he artwork for the button.
3. **Mylar Circle: C**lear plastic cover that protects the design.

Depending on your project, you will also use either:

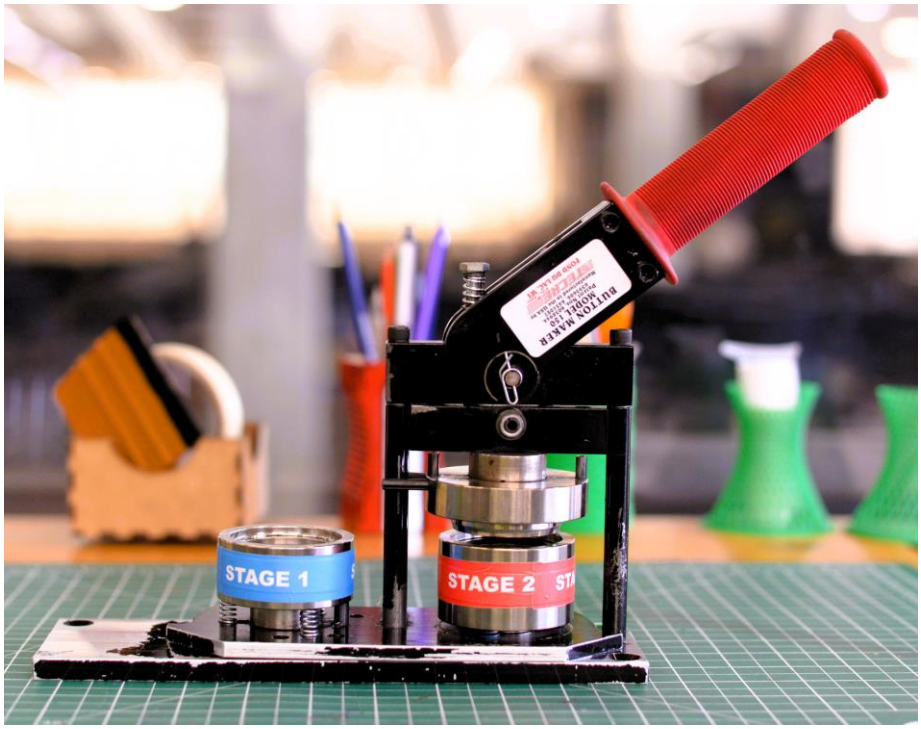
1. **Pin Backing** for wearable buttons
2. **Magnet Backing** for refrigerator magnets
3. Magnet buttons use a **magnet holding ring** and a magnet.



A photograph showing the parts of a button maker with labels. This includes the Convex Metal Shell, Design, Mylar Circle, Pin Backing, Magnet Holding Ring, and Magnet.

4. Making a Button

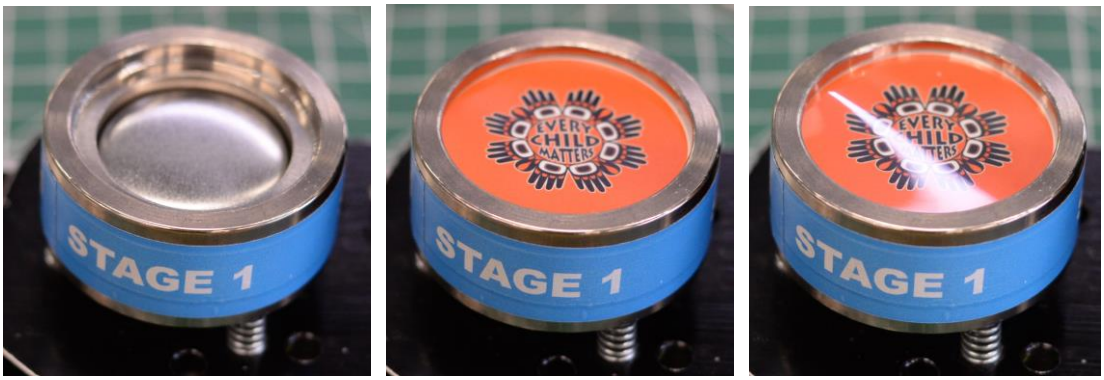
The button press has two stages, both visible on the rotating base.



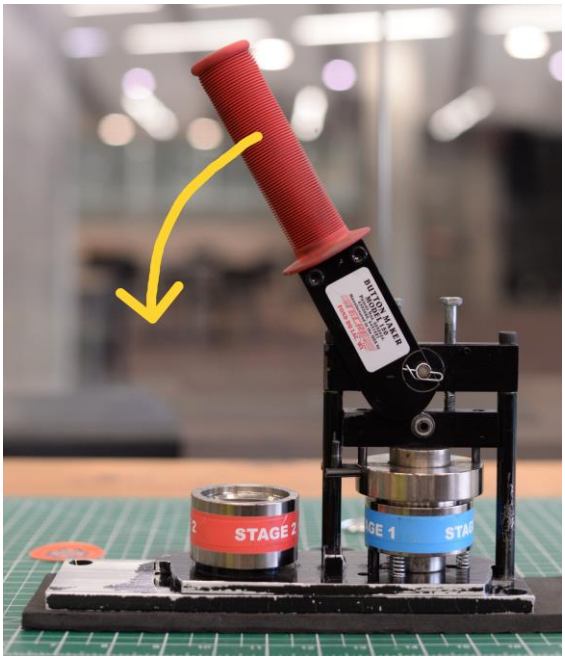
A photograph of the button maker, showing stage 1 and stage 2 on the rotating base.

Stage 1

Place the convex metal shell (dome-side up), your cut design, and a Mylar circle here. Rotate Stage 1 under the press and push the handle down to join the layers.



A series of photographs showing how to (1) place the convex metal shell, (2) place your cut design, and (3) place a Mylar circle.



A photograph showing how to rotate stage one and push down to join the layers.

Stage 2

Load your chosen backing into Stage 2:

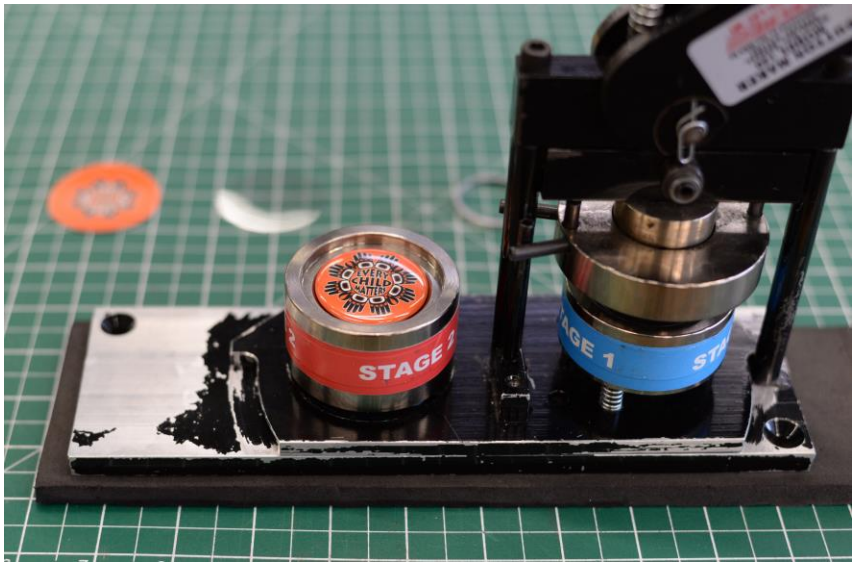
- **For a pinback button:** place the pin backing with the zigzag side facing up.
- **For a magnet:** place the magnet holding ring with the open side facing down, then drop the magnet inside the ring.

Two photographs showing how to place the backing in stage 2, zigzag side facing up for pinback buttons, and open side facing down for magnets.

After the final press, pop your finished piece out of Stage 2. The two finished options are shown below: a **pinback button** (left) with the pin clasp on the back, and a **fridge magnet** (right) with a flat magnetic backing.

A photograph showing the finished pinback button and fridge magnet.

Your finished button or magnet is ready to go!



A photograph showing the finished magnet/button.