

A Method for Making Typewriter Looking Keys From Jeweled Brads



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The idea behind this project was to create letter or number inserts which had the look of old typewriter keys – without destroying a typewriter. These inserts could be inlaid in wooden or metal projects requiring letters, numbers, or symbols rather than merely painting the desired markings on the surface. Hopefully this inlaid result would look more professional than painting. This method will work with brads that I have found readily available in the United States.

The brads start out like this (16mm size)



Actually the facets look OK, there was a strange reflection when I took the picture. The “gem” is a molded plastic jewel.

The first step is to pry the gem away from its metal backing. It is just lightly glued to the metal brad plate. You might want to save the gem for another project such as snake eyes for a snake basket snake.



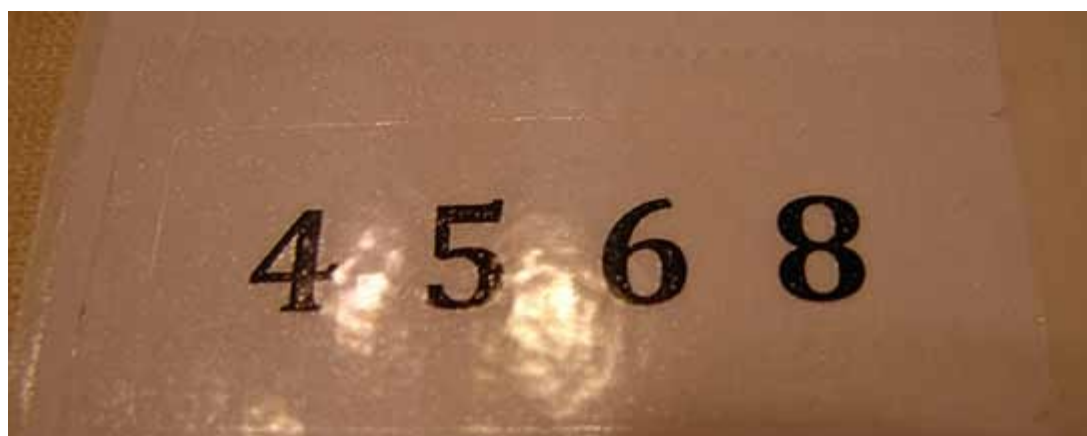
These are the folder tab labels that I used. For this example I printed the numbers on my laser printer. For some items I will hand calligraphy them.

Notice that permanent adhesive labels were used - not removable.



A few printed labels looked like this.

I used **long lasting storage tape** for this example. Library tape is also good.



Tape is put onto the

label.

This is the hole punch set I used.





I used the 9/16" punch.

A rubber pad was placed under the label sheet. A nylon pounding pad is better and wood end grain is fine.
None of these will dull the punch.

The punch is centered over the desired number and tapped with a hammer.



The result is a round tape protected label.

Notice the hole part way through the rubber. This is why a nylon pounding board or wood end grain is better.
I was too lazy to haul out my pounding board.

The backing paper of the label got removed next...



... and the label applied to the brad plate. Done!

The brad clips may be used or cut off as needed. If an aged look on the labels is desired, the labels may be "dusted" with colored ink using an airbrush. In addition to inseting the labels, they may be used to decorate a "machine" used in your act to make it look Steampunk.

If this info was of any use, please drop me an email.

No emails = no more such tips.

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