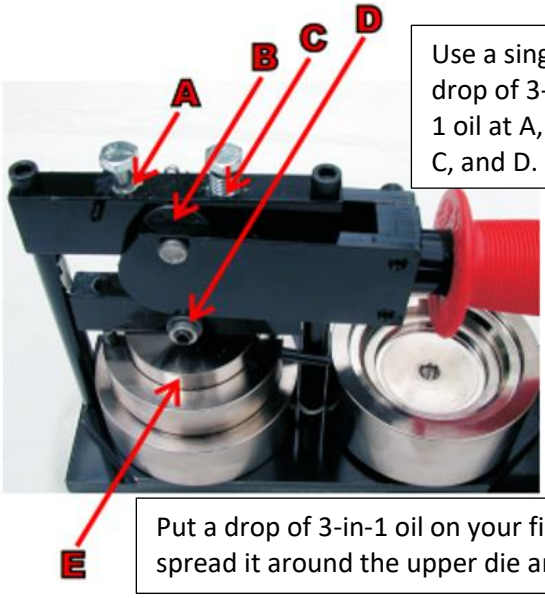
American Button Machines Lubrication and Maintenance Tips

(Information borrowed from ABM documents & videos)

Supplies needed:

- 3-in-1 Machine Oil
- Multi-Purpose Lithium Grease
- Silicone Spray



Use a single drop of 3-in-1 oil at A, B, C, and D.

Put a drop of 3-in-1 oil on your finger and carefully spread it around the upper die area marked 'E."

Place a small amount of lithium green on the base plate marked F, then spin baseplate to spread grease. Don't use too much.

Apply a small amount of silicon spray to your finger. Carefully spread it around the 45 degree edge of the crimp (deeper) die marked G. This keeps the buttons sliding easily.

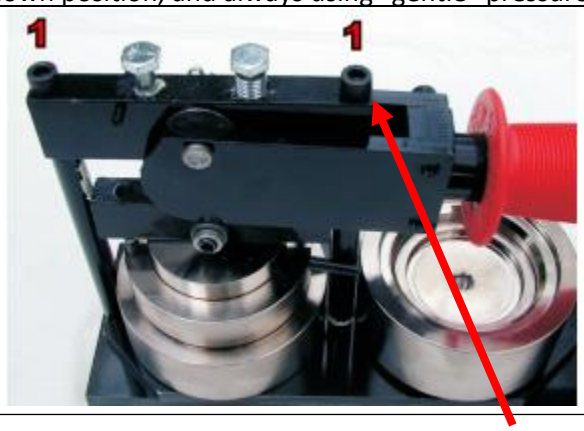
Button Machine Lubrication & Maintenance Video can be viewed at:
https://www.americanbuttonmachines.com/blogs/american-button-machines/button-maker-lubrication-and-maintenance

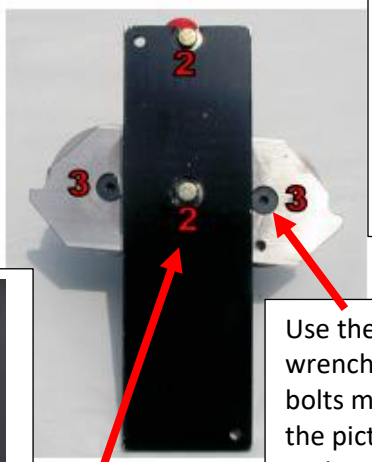
Note: A little bit of grease and oil goes a long way. Using too much oil can soil your buttons. Only lubricate the machine on an as needed basis. It is better to oil and grease too little than too much.

Tighten only Specific Bolts

The maintenace video shows you which bolts to tighten and which bolts to leave alone. The only ones to tighten are those marked 1, 2 and 3 (see both pictures).

Only tighten these bolts, always with the handle in the down position, and always using "gentle" pressure.





3/16" Allen Wrench

7/16 Socket Wrench

Use the 7/16 socket wrench to tighten the bolts marked "3" in the picture; they are underneath the rotating die fixture.

The pair of outer bolts marked 1 and 2 are actually long bolts that attach the machine to its base. Lay the button maker on its side and use a 3/16" Allen wrench on the bolt marked "1" while using a 7/16 socket wrench on the bolt marked "2" opposite that same shaft on the base. Using gentle pressure, tighten the bolt pair marked 1, 2. Repeat for the other 1, 2 bolt pair. Excessive force will damage the machine.

Preventing Button Maker Jams

It is good to avoid jamming the button maker. Button parts often stick together. If you insert more than one button front, back, or Mylar circle, you may jam the button maker. Using thick paper for your graphic or not getting the Mylar circle entirely in the die and allowing it to stick out over the edge is also a problem.

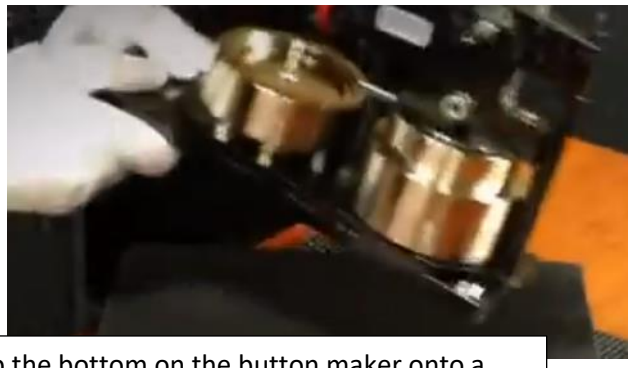
Steps to Unjam a Button Maker

The button maker is jammed you cannot lift the red handle as the upper and lower crimp dies are stuck together.

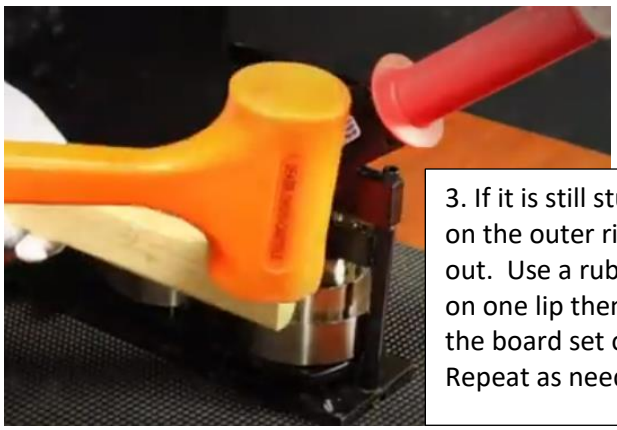
Here is a link to an American Button video showing how to unjam your button maker. Below is a pictorial summary.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9ba8c0hSHw

1. Try vigorously moving the handle back and forth.



2. Tap the bottom on the button maker onto a book or magazine stack until the dies separate.



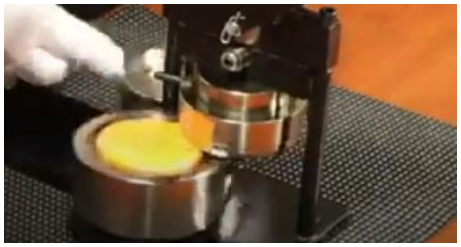
3. If it is still stuck, take a 1x2" board and set it on the outer ring of the lower die that is sticking out. Use a rubber mallet to hit the board first on one lip then moving it to the other side to hit the board set on the lip on the other side. Repeat as needed until the handle flies up.

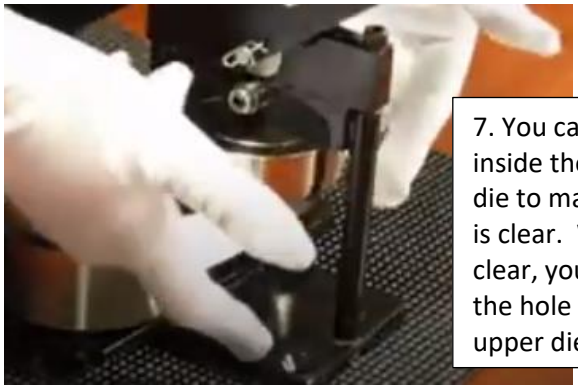
NOTE: Never use a tool directly on the button maker to pry apart the stuck parts. That will damage the device.

4. Once the dies are no longer stuck, we need to remove the button that is still in the upper die. Spin the bottom dies until the deeper crimp die is under the upper die.

5. Pull the handle half way down so that the center plug comes down and kicks out the stuck button.

6. Rotate the die and remove the button that was released. Toss out the removed parts.





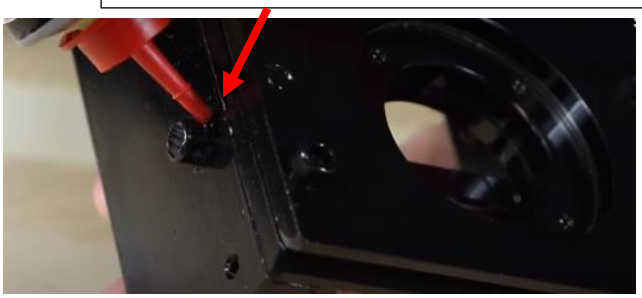
7. You can feel inside the upper die to make sure it is clear. When clear, you can feel the hole in the upper die.

Graphic Punch Cutter Lubrication and Maintenance

NEVER tighten or loosen any of the bolts/screws on the Graphic Punch Cutter. This is a calibrated instrument that will ruined if it is taken apart or loosened.

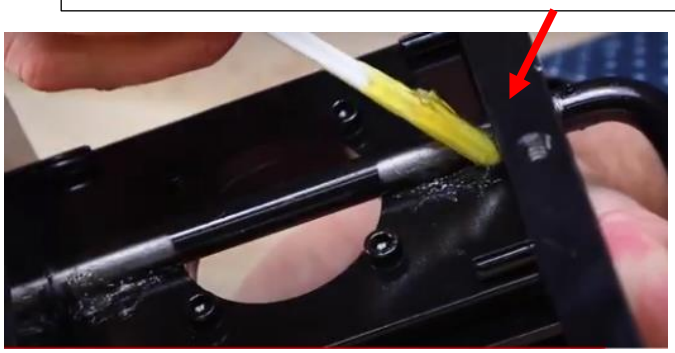
However, you may periodically lubricate the device.

You may use one drop of 3-in-1 oil where the handle enters the base on both sides.



Flip the cutter over and apply a small amount of lithium grease to the shaft where it connects to the base on both sides.

After applying the oil and the grease (shown in both pictures), push the handle up and down a few times to work in the lubrication.



Besides lubrication the only maintance relates to clearing the punch's paper path

To avoid getting paper stock in the cutter, use only normal thickness printer paper (22 or 24 lb.).
Never punch thicker paper, fabric, or glitter paper.

But if paper is stuck in the punch cutter:

- Make sure the red handle is in the sweet spot—not all the way up nor all the way down.
- Use a playing card or laminated sleeve to clear the paper path of paper and debris by passing it into one side and out the other.
- If that fails, other methods are also shown below.

If the card didn't work, or the parts appear to be stuck, tap a rubber mallet gently to the top inner die.

No mallet? Lift the punch cutter up and tap it gently down on a protected table to unjam the die.

Last resort, spray a little WD-40 around the inner die. Let it sit overnight to soak the paper. Then try the playing card trick again.

You can find the punch cutter care and maintenance video at:
https://www.americanbuttonmachines.com/blogs/american-button-machines/punch-cutter-care-and-maintenance-video-tutorial