

# U.S. Reproduction WWII Matchbooks

By R.R.Palmer © 2004

**Legal Notice:** *This article describes how I make replica matchbooks for use in my hobby, WWII Historical Re-enacting. If anyone uses this information to make matchbooks, they do so at their own risk. I, and any product manufacturer accepts no responsibility for the individual actions of others.*

## History

WWII US Matchbooks were produced in many sizes and shapes, but typically, they all had the striker pad on the front side. This was later changed for safety reasons after the war. The covers are also shorter than modern ones.

**Materials** I used to make my replica matchbooks:

Matches, Diamond Brand, found at a grocery store  
65# cover stock from Office Supply, Ivory, Tan, or white depending on the image.  
Staples  
Rubber cement  
Paper cutter or scissors  
Pen knife with small blade  
Metal ruler

## Getting Started

My first step was to remove the staple from the matchbook. I used a pen knife to carefully pry up the staple points, and then using the blade, pull the staple up from the other side.  
(I Saved the cover.)

My second step was to cut the striker pad out carefully and lay it aside. (I Kept the remains of the cover for scoring and folding reference.)

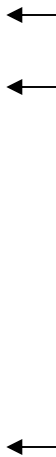
My third step was to print the reproduction images using a cover stock. I then cut the printed matchbook covers apart using a paper cutter.

My fourth step was to score the replica covers using a metal ruler and a plastic knife or other dull edged instrument. I used the old matchbook cover as a reference on how the scores should look.

My fifth step was to glue the striker pad on the FRONT side using rubber cement.

My sixth step was to place the matches in the new cover and staple them in, (through the striker pad) and test the folds.

After allowing the cement to dry for an hour or so, I added the finished project to my WWII Footlocker for future displays.



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