

Making Pins for FOSS at SOSS 2026

With board approval of the design and plan, I made about 100 2¼ inch (85mm) pin-back buttons for the Framingham State **Science on State Street** event which we are scheduled to attend.

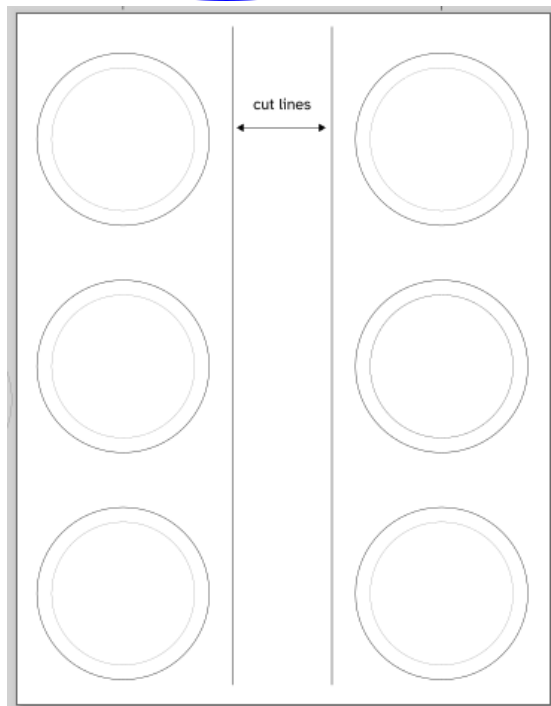
First step, a design.



The design came pretty quickly, And the result was approved by the board.

The next step was to design a sheet of them for convenient reproduction.

That sheet is an SVG file done using Inkscape. The button text fit into the six inner circles.



To make a few copies was fine on the color laser printer, but it was better to create a full sheet of the finished design and get copies made at Staples so it would not use up the printer's ink.

VEVOR[®]
TOUGH TOOLS, HALF PRICE

BUTTON MAKER MACHINE
INSTRUCTION MANUAL

BJS-25/58-BK-001
BJS-32/58-BK-001



After cutting the copied page into strips vertically, I used a die cutter (not from Vevor) to get a clean result.

The button blank is larger than the finished button size, so it is okay to use scissors to trim around the button blank. The finished button image needs to fit in the 58mm inner circle.

It is much easier to use the handle (visible just to the right) to make the circles crisp and smooth. It's quick work to cut out three buttons and repeat for as many as you need.



Moving to the actual button maker (model BJS 32/58 BK 001 from Vevor), we need a back plate with a pin already installed in the right hand part of the press **pin hook DOWN**. When using a metal backing, there's an extra plastic ring for support. That's not used if the thicker plastic backing is used.



In the left mold, we stack the metal pin face, then the pin image, then the mylar sheet in the left support mold of the press and pull down on the handle. The three parts stick in the upper mold of the machine. Then we slide the mold plate to the left so the backing is centered under the top and pull the handle a second time, capturing the pin parts into the back plate.



Though not used to make the pins for the Framingham State Science on State Street event, the Vevor machine also has a second upper mold for making smaller 1¼ inch (32mm) pins such as the example shown here.