Subject: If your thinking about an aluminum top plate and using a nibbler.....
Posted by Bill Epstein on Mon, 02 Oct 2006 23:27:52 GMT
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....take it from me, an 1/8" is a s'keenth too thick.I got these nifty rectangular 3-in-1 IEC, fuse and switch units, drilled holes all the way around the perimeter and looked forward to nibbling the opening clean. unh-unh!Half an hour with a file. Ouch!

Subject: Re: If your thinking about an aluminum top plate and using a nibbler.....
Posted by cfranz on Tue, 03 Oct 2006 13:20:08 GMT
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I love those things. Switch, fuse, IEC connector. Not particularly expensive, but a pain to cut. I've not tried this... yet... I'm going to give it a shot with a router and a metal sidecutter bit. Aluminum isn't a particularly hard metal, it should work even with a wood bit (although you'll probably have to replace the bit more often).if it works, I'm going to create a template for use with a 3/8 collar.

Subject: Re: If your thinking about an aluminum top plate and using a nibbler.....
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 03 Oct 2006 13:47:53 GMT
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Yeah, I use a nibbler tool on sheet metal that's pretty thin, but gotta go for a hacksaw once it gets bigger than about 1/16" thick.

Subject: Re: If your thinking about an aluminum top plate and using a nibbler.....
Posted by cfranz on Tue, 03 Oct 2006 14:01:41 GMT
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I've never liked nibblers on metal; I tend to leave a bad edge. Love them for plastic work, or separating out decals. But, a good diamond blade hack saw makes short work of aluminum... if your patient and have good hand/eye coordination. As I've gotten older, I've lost the eyes for fine manual work. I've pretty much had to give up model railroading... Even with reading glasses and a jeweler’s loupe.

Subject: Re: If your thinking about an aluminum top plate and using a nibbler.....
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 03 Oct 2006 17:35:12 GMT
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You're right about the nibbler twisting the edge of the cut. If a part is going to be visible, that's not the best way to cut it.

Subject: Where'd ya get em'
Posted by Shane on Tue, 03 Oct 2006 21:49:28 GMT
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Hey Bill,Where'd ya get those from? I could use several myself.

Subject: Re: Where'd ya get em'
Posted by Bill Epstein on Wed, 04 Oct 2006 01:00:55 GMT
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They're from Digikey, part # Q300-ND. $8.35 each.Check the page they're on there's several config's.I got snap-in and wished I had got screw on. The flange is about a 1/16 and nooo room for error.

Subject: Re: If your thinking about an aluminum top plate and using a nibbler.....
Posted by Forty2wo on Wed, 04 Oct 2006 02:50:56 GMT
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Try a jewelers saw, or other very fine copeing saw blade. It is actually faster and easier than drilling a line of holes then cleaning them up…John

Subject: Re: If your thinking about an aluminum top plate and using a nibbler.....
Posted by SteveBrown on Thu, 05 Oct 2006 16:54:19 GMT
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FWIW, I use a sabesaw with a metal cutting blade, works great. First I cover the area with that

blue painter's tape so nothing gets scratched (easier to draw the outline on, too).

Subject: Re: Hey Steve,
Posted by Bill Epstein on Thu, 05 Oct 2006 20:49:53 GMT
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Euphonia is back-orderd 'til the 16th on the meters, which won't say Western Eelctric on the face.The website says the mounting hole is 1 3/4". Is that right? And what is the overall size?I picked up a gorgeous piece of cherry today and hope to have the base ready this weekend.

Subject: Re: Hey Steve,
Posted by SteveBrown on Thu, 05 Oct 2006 23:40:18 GMT
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My meters are 1 7/8 square and looks like they would mount in a hole just a bit bigger than 1 3/4. So we working on the amp this weekend?? That would be great, let me know.

Subject: Sourcing for plate
Posted by Shane on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 21:47:34 GMT
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Where is a good (read: inexpensive) place to purchase aluminum plate? I've heard that 0.09" is a good thickness for most amps. I'm going to have a go at building a Darling and was thinking aluminum top plate with wood chassis about 8" X 13" or so.

Subject: Re: Sourcing for plate
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 21 Oct 2006 22:47:10 GMT
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Have you checked McMaster-Carr? They have aluminum sheets in various thicknesses.
 Aluminum Sheets at McMaster-Carr

Subject: Re: Yo, Shane
Posted by Bill Epstein on Sun, 22 Oct 2006 01:42:40 GMT
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On Line Metals is where I got the amp plate. 1/8" 6065 aluminum. Prices are good but the shipping always seems kinda high. Also, don't expect shiny smooth. Both this aluminum and a brass plate I used for the Cornet had scratches, some deep. I also found out that standard powder coating from my local source was very smooth and not that durable. Textured is better and that's what I'll get next time.
On Line Metals