Domestic 'Fuse' tool

I came across some videos on YouTube on pouch shakers, as opposed to dimensional ones, in order to reduce the bulk & decided that I wanted to play around some with the technique. So I headed to my favourite online shopping channel for all things craft, ergo eBay, & had a hunt around.

In the video they had used a dedicated craft tool called a 'Fuse' tool so I checked those out first to discover that they were in excess of £25. I know what I am like with new techniques, I will play around with them for a few weeks & then the whole caboodle will end up in a drawer some place gathering dust.

So I searched some more using a different search criteria & eventually came up with the 'thermal bag sealer' idea, these are meant for use in the kitchen to reseal bags to keep the contents fresh once you have opened them.

There appeared to be two styles but I chose the one below as I thought it would be more useful. Then the price point caught my attention - £5 with free p&p – (November 2018) so if it didn't work out I wouldn't be too bothered & besides, I could always use it in the kitchen for its intended purpose.

So here are the promotional pictures if you want to check it out for yourself.

Here are some in depth pictures of the machine itself:

This is how it looks straight out of the box & it measures approximately 23 x 6.5 x 3cm (9 x 2½ x 1¼"), so great for stashing away in small spaces.

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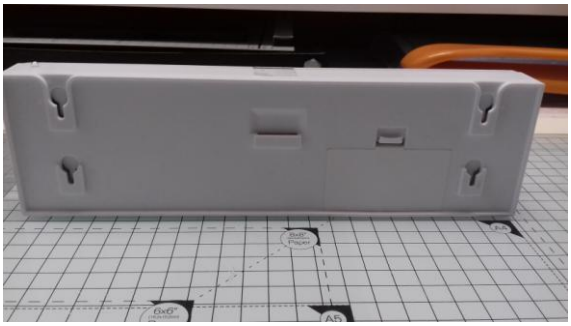
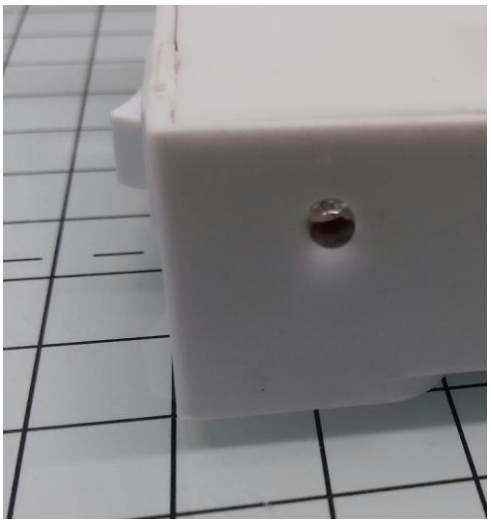
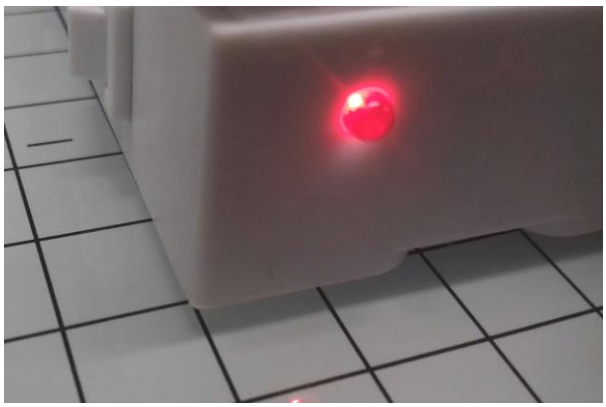


This is the base & as you can see there are slots for mounting it to the wall if you wanted to, plus the battery compartment – it takes 4 x AA batteries to operate - which don't come with the machine.

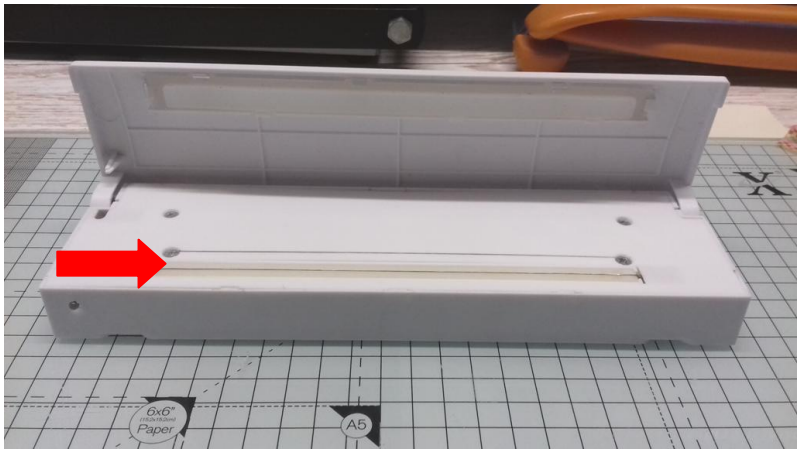
The on/off switch is on the left hand side, but mine somehow works regardless of whether it is actually switched on or off – but that isn't a problem as there in secondary mechanism that actually makes the machine function.





The bulb on the front left of the machine tells you when the machine is actually in operation & to start it up you need to close the lid & press on the bottom left corner & then release when you are done.

This is how the inner working part of the machine looks (ignore the pencil line as I will discuss that momentarily) there is a single thread of wire that runs across the width of the machine, that I have highlighted using a red arrow, & the machine heats this wire which in turn seals the bags/pouches.



At first – as they were close at hand – I tried using cellophane card bags in the machine but found they didn't seal properly,

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the next thing I tried was laminate pouches & they worked perfectly, but I do plan on trying other stuff as time goes on.

Once I was done experimenting I made a very slight adaptation to the machine so that it would be easier to seal the pouches & still give me enough space to attach some narrow double sided tape to the edge, in order to fix the goodie filled pouches into position on my project.

I drew a pencil line about 1cm (approx. ½") above the heating wire & used that as a guide for lining up the edge of the pouch; as you can see indicated by the red arrow in the picture to the left.

Okay, so that is the machine & my little adaptation explained, the only other thing that I suggest you have close at hand, before embarking on this adventure & making your first shaker pouch, is some repositionable or Washi tape to hold the pouch in position along the pencil line while you seal it.

I began with square & rectangular pouches but soon progressed to five pointed star & even an oval pouch, & I am still experimenting.

If you would like me to type up some instructions on making the pouches, drop me a line & I will get a couple done for you, in the meantime here are some I made into cards.