

The Quintessential Bulle Tin

From QRPme

Volume 1 Number 1

December 2007

Tins the Season!

Now is the time for all good QRPers to descend upon the seasonal aisles at their local big-box retailers! I was 'visiting' my local Wallyworld yesterday and noticed that the 50% off signs were up and the seasonal shelves were already thinning out. This has been an interesting year for tin-hunters. Seems like an there was an explosion of tin based seasonal products. I found a nice Wrigley's gum tin with interesting dimensions for \$1.50, a lemon cookies tall tubular tin for 2 bucks and a nifty stacking canister set for 5 bucks. Not that I needed any more tins for my collection; but, I couldn't resist these tins. I'm thinking field strength meter, resonant speaker enclosure and parts tins



Hints on justifying a tin purchase: I was at Wallyworld to pick up some items for a post Christmas family get together, NOT to purchase tins for my collection. Since I was instructed , *by the boss*, to buy some desert items to take to her family get together, I strolled by the seasonal aisle to find some bargains and decided lemon cookies, Crème de Pirouline sticks, hot cocoa, and cappuccino would be nice. I'll also be a generous uncle and hand out packs of gum to my nieces and nephews. The fact that I'm taking all these items in a nice gift bag and disposing of all the tins in a junque (tin) box under my QRP bench, will only be know by me and readers of The Bulletin!

A Case in point!

Be prepared to look in unfamiliar territory! I spotted this men's toiletry set in a nice QRPworthy go-case. It was located in the boxed gift section, a aisle I never roam. Again, 50% off the \$13.97 tag yielded a very nice QRP go-case for 7 bucks! Less than 1 minute of 'surgery' removed all traces of toiletries and the go-case was fully QRP functional.





Toiletry kit to QRP go-case in less than 30 seconds



Here is another Wallyworld bargain: the battery operated set of Christmas lites for a buck! A set of clear bulbs are shown here, connected to the multivoltage connector of a TPS kit. Note: the lite string measured $\frac{1}{2}$ amp at 5 volts, so I added a heat sink to the 5 volt regulator. Of course, energy is wasted by stepping the voltage down from 12 volts to 5. So buy 4 strings in hook them in series!



Tin Knocker's (NOT the band) Tools

If, like me, you like to play around with radios and electronics in tins, then you need some tools. Here are some basics:

1.) The hand punch. Whitney Roper makes one of the best hand punches but the price reflects the made in America craftsmanship and materials. They cost in excess of \$200. I would like to own one; but, for $\frac{1}{4}$ the cost, I own 2 Harbor Freight punches so I can keep 2 different hole sizes always chucked up!

2.) The step-drill will drill a clean hole in locations *you wish* you could get your punch into. Top quality American made step drills are \$20. Chinese knockoffs are closer to \$5.



The Harbor Freight deep throat hand punch is a poor man's version of the Whitney Roper Hand punch... BUT IT WORKS!



The step-drill cuts pretty clean holes in thin metal tins! One bit drills many different sized holes...