

Operation “ON-TARGET”

HOW TO MAKE A HAND SIGNAL MIRROR

You will need two pocket-sized mirrors. They can be any size, but 2" x 3" works pretty well for the front mirror and 1.5" x 2.5" for the back mirror. These can be cut, with standard glasscutter, from almost any scrap 1/8" to 3/16" mirror glass. If you don't have the misfortune to have a broken mirror yourself (maybe from last years On Target) you can generally obtain free from most glass companies. If you tell them what you need it for, they may even cut it for you.

Step 1: Sand the edges and corners so they are smooth.

Step 2: Mark the center of each piece of mirror. Take a single edge razor or the point of a pocketknife and scrape the paint off the back to make about a 1/8" diameter hole in the middle of each mirror that you can see through. Be careful that you don't scratch the glass--you won't if you are careful. Do this to both pieces of mirror. Make the edges of the holes nice and clean because this is your “aimer.”

Step 3: There will be some glossy stuff left in the hole on the glass that comes off best with a pencil eraser and some elbow grease. Make sure that you can see clearly through each hole.

Step 4: When you get both mirrors “holed,” hold them together back-to-back to check the “hole” position. If all looks good then glue them with 4 or 5 spots of super-glue. Keep the glue away from the holes.

There, you just built yourself a handy, pocket signal mirror. You can now catch a fireball from 93 million miles away...and throw it another 50 miles or so. This little mirror can also be used as the sighting mirror for a larger mirror. Just clamp or tape it to an edge of the large mirror in the same plane. It also should go in your survival kit.