

# CUTTING AND PUNCHING MUSIC BOX STRIPS

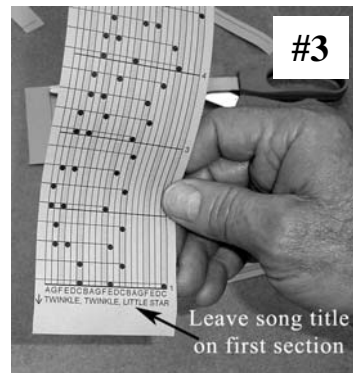
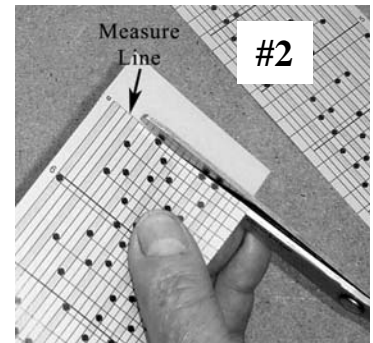
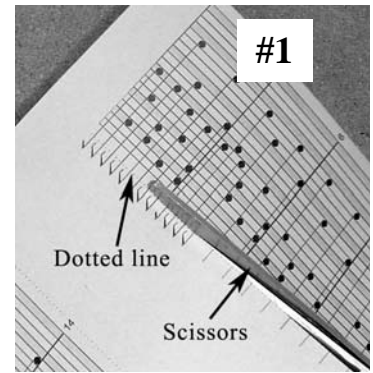
**1.** If your song is printed out on regular (thin) paper, it needs to be strengthened before you punch it for your music box. You can either photocopy the sheets onto heavier cardstock paper (65 lb or more), or you can heat-seal the sheets in 3 mil laminating pouches to stiffen and protect them. If you don't have access to a laminator, you can go to an office supply store (Kinko's, Officemax, Office Depot, etc) and have it done. Be sure to ask for 3 MIL thickness. Anything thicker will be too hard to punch.

**SUGGESTION:** If you are printing out a number of songs, you might want to use different colored paper for each one, or for different categories of songs. That will make it easier to locate specific songs when you are looking through your collection.

**2.** Once the paper is ready, use a scissors to cut on the dotted lines to make narrow strips (see photo #1). Don't worry about cutting off the tails of the notes.

**HINT:** It is important to cut accurately, within 1/16" of the dotted lines. Otherwise the paper will not feed properly through the music movement.

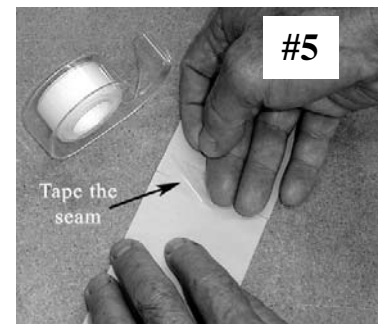
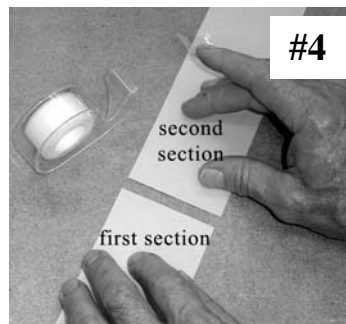
**3.** Now you can cut each strip to proper length, right on the end measure lines (photo#2). Notice the numbered measures along one side of each strip. When trimmed properly the number at the end of the first strip will be spliced together to line up with the rest of the same number at the start of the next strip.



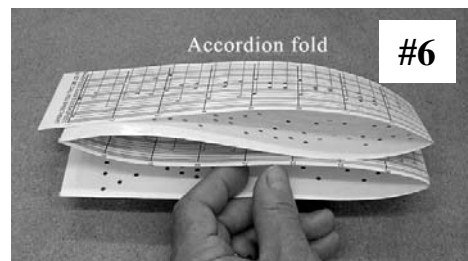
**NOTE:** Leave the song title at the start of the first strip only (photo #3). You'll cut the rest of the strips right on the measure lines at each end, as shown.

**4.** Use strong clear tape to join the strips together (4 & 5). We like to put tape on just one side of each joint, alternating front and back sides so the song will fold up like an accordion fold into a compact size about 9" long. This makes the songs easier to store.

Start with tape on the back side of the joint between strip #1 and strip #2.



Then flip over and put tape on the front side of the joint between strip #2 and strip #3, etc. If you start with tape on the back side at the first seam, then the title will always show on top of the folded pile (photo #6).



**NOTE:** Some songs are longer than others, requiring several folds. You can also join songs together into a medley if you wish.

**5.** Now you can sit back in an easy chair and punch all the notes (photo #7). Hold the punching tool with the hole facing up so you can see when that little hole is centered on the black notes. Please note that some strips may have a few half notes and whole notes that are not solid black. Be sure to punch those too.



**HINT:** If you are giving a music box to someone as a gift, you can let that person enjoy the fun of punching out the notes. Even a 5-year-old can perform that detail job, and it makes them all the more anxious to hear how the song plays when they finish punching.