

# Rubber-Band Powered Altoids Boat

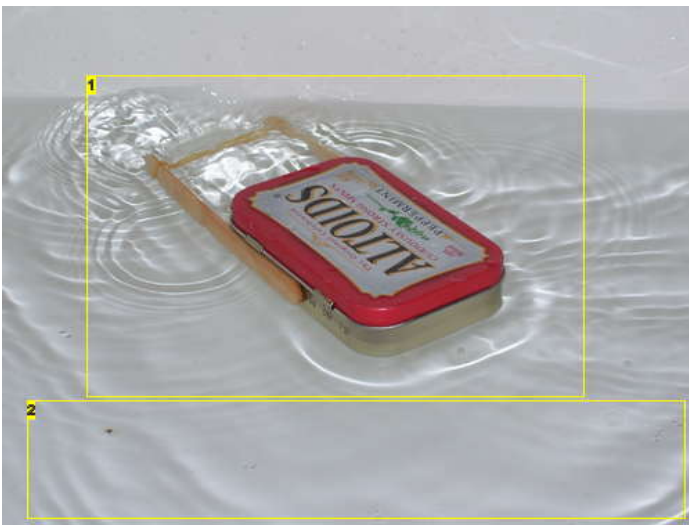
by [computergeek](#) on March 23, 2009

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## intro: Rubber-Band Powered Altoids Boat

This instructable is on how to build a Rubber-Band Powered Altoids Boat! Perhaps you remember making a boat out of a milk carton as a kid. Now here's one out of an Altoids Tin! They are a great thing to do with kids. Also you don't have to worry about using batteries either! (Green power!) So work hard, have fun, play nice, & don't forget to vote!



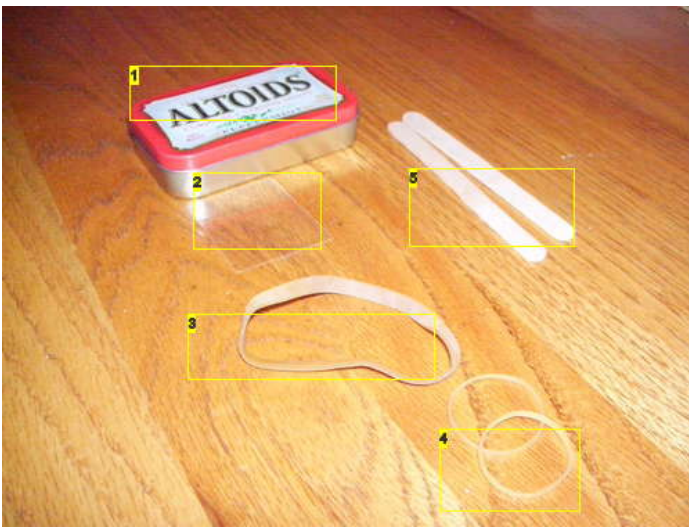
### Image Notes

1. There it is!
2. It's going...It's going...It's going...It's going.....

## step 1: Stuff Needed:

This is what you will need:

- 1x Altoids Tin
- 2x Popsicle Sticks
- 1x Small Chunk of Plastic
- 1x Small Rubber Band
- Either a Large Rubber Band or Hot Glue
- Scissors



**Image Notes**

1. If there is still a few left how about eating them when doing this!
2. The plastic is here
3. This is only needed if you are not going to hot glue the popsicle sticks down.
4. You only need one
5. You need both

**step 2: Add the Popsicle sticks to the Tin**

To hot glue them:

(1st Picture)

Add some hot glue from the end to about 2 in on one side of one of the popsicle sticks

(2nd Picture)

Stick the popsicle stick to the side of the Altoids tin.

(3rd Picture)

Repeat on the other side.

**To use a rubber band:**

Set the Popsicle sticks so they overlap the end of the tin by about 2 1/2 in.

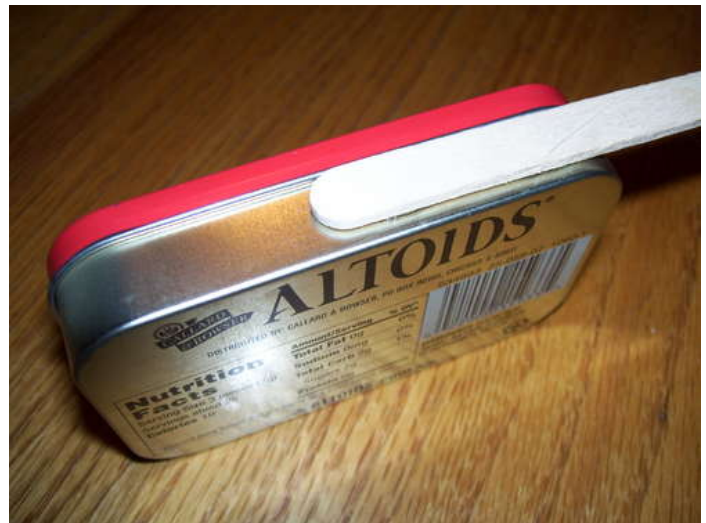
(5th Picture)

Use the rubber band to the Popsicle sticks on.



**Image Notes**

1. Hurry! Put it on before it cools





#### Image Notes

1. The other side is done!

### step 3: Make and add the Propeller

To make the Propeller:

(1st Picture)

Cut a your plastic to about 2 in by 1 1/2 in.

To add it:

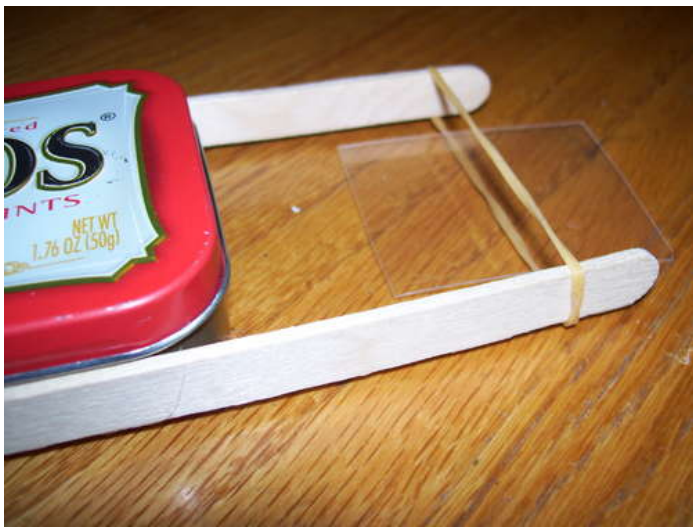
(2nd Picture)

Add the Small rubber band to the ends of the Popsicle sticks.

(3rd Picture)

Put your plastic piece you cut out between the rubber band. It may not stay there.

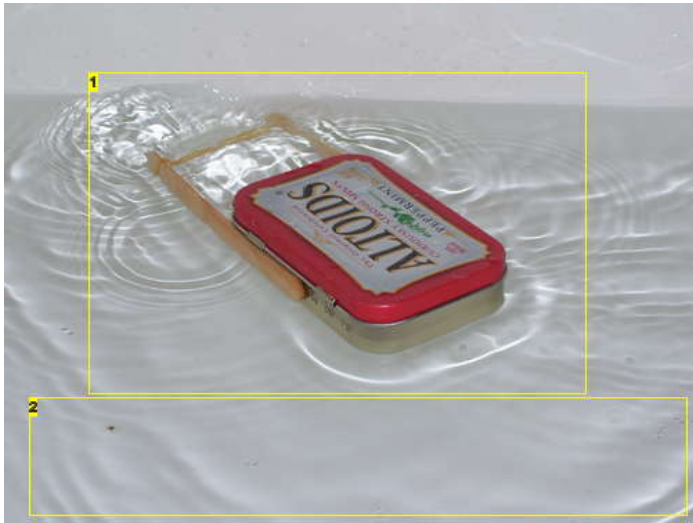




#### step 4: Using your Altoids Boat

If your plastic piece fell out put it back in. Once it is in rotate the piece so it gets wound up. Then while holding the plastic piece (Propeller) set it in some water (Bath tub, pool...) and let go! Once it stops Repeat! When your done playing with it dry it really well. Other wise the Altoids tin may rust. Also you can put the plastic propeller thing in the altoids tin so you don't lose it when it is stored. If the popsicles sticks bend a little don't worry it is just the wood getting soft from the water.

Thanks for reading my instructable and don't forget to vote for it!



#### Image Notes

1. There it is!
2. It's going...It's going...It's going.....

## Related Instructables



**Rubber-Band Powered Altoids Boat Video** (video) by computergeek



**Altoids Danger Demolition Racer** by BruceMiller



**Covert Altoids Dart Gun** by Javin007



**Alka Seltzer Powered Bath tub Boat** by Phil B



**A kid's survival guide** by Geek101



**Handy Altoids Kit** by The magical duct tape kid



**Klutz Rubber Band-Powered Contest Winners** (guide) by Contest Robot



**Kit** by toasted

# Comments


50 comments [Add Comment](#)

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 **mikeyjordan24** says: Jul 23, 2009. 2:18 PM [REPLY](#)  
What kind of plastic and howd u get it

---

 **computergeek** says: Aug 7, 2009. 12:24 PM [REPLY](#)  
I'm not sure the type, but any hard plastic packing material will work.


---

 **Datrampstar** says: Aug 19, 2009. 1:05 PM [REPLY](#)  
looks like plexi-glass

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 **iDrumm** says: Aug 7, 2009. 12:06 PM [REPLY](#)  
Looks Like Acrylic, So A Small Piece of Flat Glass Might Work.  
A Small Version of What is On Photos Would Do.

---

 **wangzo** says: Jul 18, 2009. 11:33 PM [REPLY](#)  
I wonder if a big version would work. You know with big stuff and like whacked out rubber bands.


---

 **mikaelthemycologist** says: Jul 7, 2009. 5:18 PM [REPLY](#)  
Awesome.....  
Oh, and on step two you said "Use the rubber band to the Popsicle sticks on."


---

 **NYPA** says: Jun 20, 2009. 6:12 PM [REPLY](#)  
or you could just glue the plastic to the rubber band.

---

 **Yashasvi** says: Jun 16, 2009. 12:12 AM [REPLY](#)  
If you cut slots in two pieces of plastic and mesh them together to get a cross shaped piece and then use it as a paddle wheel, it will not fall off the rubber band.


---

 **NYPA** says: Jun 14, 2009. 5:38 PM [REPLY](#)  
It that plastic wrap or hard plastic? If it is wrap that will explain the half mile an hour boat. Thats slow about less than half the video speed. ill try the plastic wrap.

---

 **computergeek** says: Jun 14, 2009. 5:51 PM [REPLY](#)  
It's hard plastic. Similar to a credit card.


---
















 **badboy123** says: May 31, 2009. 12:27 PM [REPLY](#)  
when the problem of the propeller falling comes you can hot glue the tiny peice of plastic...errr uh i mean propeller to the rubber band

---

 **thing 2** says: May 21, 2009. 2:30 PM [REPLY](#)  
maybe you could use pens or another stick like object.  
I'm gonna try to make one with all out door materials.  
(sticks, leafs, wood, etc.)

---

 **thing 2** says: May 21, 2009. 2:29 PM [REPLY](#)  
hey, "mg0930mg" it means they are made in great britin (england) doesn't mean people in the uk can get them. it is like how most stuff is made in china in the usa but some people in china can't get the same product.

- 
-  **thing 2** says:  
I really like it 4.5 May 21, 2009. 1:42 PM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **maurice1993** says:  
great little toy! simple, easy to build and much funny! five stars! May 16, 2009. 8:34 AM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **computergeek** says:  
Thanks! May 16, 2009. 8:35 AM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **ishish46** says:  
its so simple, yet so awesome!! May 11, 2009. 7:40 PM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **computergeek** says:  
Thanks May 11, 2009. 10:23 PM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **SNiPERSeYes** says:  
i like his shower  
hmmm May 6, 2009. 5:45 PM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **wupme** says:  
I love those altoids boxes, but i have never seen those in germany.  
Only thing i can think of would be Pullmoll, wich are sold in a similar box, but its round.  
Give you other oportunities, but having both would be great. Apr 26, 2009. 10:28 PM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **halo1232** says:  
when I was watching the video, I almost forgot the music was playing through my homebuilt speaker! Apr 24, 2009. 7:56 PM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **computergeek** says:  
Is it a hard drive speaker? I build one of those recently. They're pretty neat. Apr 26, 2009. 9:42 PM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **Benjamin2343** says:  
This is a really awesome instructable!  
I just voted for it! ;) Apr 21, 2009. 8:26 AM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **computergeek** says:  
Thanks I appreciated it! Apr 21, 2009. 8:50 PM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **dragonwarrior3000** says:  
this device will be used in the fire pools of mongoth Mar 25, 2009. 4:28 PM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **Amazingdude996** says:  
what? Apr 17, 2009. 5:27 PM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **zoltzerino** says:  
I hope this doesnt sound too pathetic, but, what are Altoids? are they American Or British?  
ZZZZ Mar 25, 2009. 11:24 AM [REPLY](#)
- 
-  **zoltzerino** says:  
Altoids are less popular in Britain—their country of origin—than in the regions to which they are exported. Callard & Bowser-Suchard manufacture and produce Altoids at a plant in Bridgend, Wales, although Wrigley, the brand's owner, announced in mid 2005 they planned to move Altoids' production to an existing plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in order to manufacture its products closer to where they are sold. Mar 25, 2009. 3:07 PM [REPLY](#)
-



**Nautilus34** says:  
thats actually incredibly interesting. I always wondered if the British ate altoids...

Apr 17, 2009. 8:39 AM [REPLY](#)



**Holden\_vy\_s** says:  
I wondered this aswell, ive never seen them before but there are many instructibles about them.

Mar 25, 2009. 2:48 PM [REPLY](#)



**KoJ** says:  
what the heck?? teeeehheeee. Altoids are MINTS!! Like TIC TACS and they are in AMERICA, of course. giggle

May 5, 2009. 12:28 PM [REPLY](#)



**merseyless** says:  
altoids = eclipse mints  
thats my understanding of them

Mar 27, 2009. 7:08 PM [REPLY](#)



**Xamizer** says:  
Oh, you silly brits! Altoids are really just small round mints, and they're extremely pungent! You either love 'em or hate 'em. The tins are made of metal perfect for small projects like this. They are essentially an alternative to project boxes from RadioShack. (I'm not sure if you have Radio Shacks over there... please excuse my ignorance).

Mar 25, 2009. 2:10 PM [REPLY](#)

from,  
Yankee Doodle



**zoltzerino** says:  
Thank you very much for the reply.  
Mints - I love 'em

Mar 25, 2009. 3:05 PM [REPLY](#)

And as far as I know (I'm fairly rural) we don't have any RadioShack shops here, if only we did though, because I've taken Electronic Products for one of my GCSE options and need a supplier - I hate waiting for online people like Rapid / Maplins.

from,  
A Posh Brit  
ZZZZ



**mg0930mg** says:  
They're american as far as I can tell, however it says britain's greatest secret or something of the sort. Ironically a lot of UK members can't find them.

Mar 25, 2009. 12:29 PM [REPLY](#)



**karossii** says:  
I've never seen/heard of them being 'Britain's greatest secret' or anything of the sort; maybe that is a marketing gimmick over there in the UK... here they are just 'Curiously strong peppermints'.

Mar 25, 2009. 3:07 PM [REPLY](#)



**mg0930mg** says:  
Oh. lol. It says the original curiously strong mint. Then under it, it says made in great britain. =D I'm in the U.S.

Mar 25, 2009. 6:03 PM [REPLY](#)



**computergeek** says:  
I'm not sure. Here a Wikipedia article on altoids:  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altoids>

Mar 25, 2009. 11:28 AM [REPLY](#)



**electronicfreak22** says:  
This is awesome. My cousin has a \*slight\* addiction to altoids (5-10 tins a month) and she gives them all to me! Great Instructable, I love to see altoids projects.

Mar 31, 2009. 4:17 PM [REPLY](#)



**Nautilus34** says:  
my chorus director goes through a box just about every 3 days. I sometimes fear for his life, he eats so many.

Apr 17, 2009. 8:35 AM [REPLY](#)





**computergeek** says:

I don't think that is to bad. I can go through one tin in about 2 hours give or take a little.

Mar 31, 2009. 9:46 PM [REPLY](#)



**LinkFox101113** says:

Yeah, I've been know to go through one in a day.

I buy them from Sam's Club in packs of six.

Mar 31, 2009. 8:01 PM [REPLY](#)



**electronicfreak22** says:

O yeah, I can go through a tin in 5 minutes, I'm just saying that she will eat a tin a day, everyday ;P

Apr 1, 2009. 3:50 PM [REPLY](#)



**nightcreep20** says:

I wonder if you add weights itll make a submarine.

Apr 15, 2009. 6:00 PM [REPLY](#)



**Pyrobox32** says:

Well, this is a very nice Instructable. One question though, I'm Australian, and can you get Altoids in Australia or would there be any alternatives, thanks. Just again, this is a great idea!

Apr 10, 2009. 1:56 AM [REPLY](#)



**ALadyDragon** says:

Pyrobox32 - why not use a Tic Tac Box, im sure that would work. I know they are easy to come by in Australia.

Apr 15, 2009. 4:37 PM [REPLY](#)



**waterdonkey234** says:

Any rectangular thing that floats would work.

Apr 11, 2009. 1:49 PM [REPLY](#)



**computergeek** says:

Thanks! I'm not sure. You can use just about any tin. "chi chi chippy" used a gift card tin.

Apr 10, 2009. 6:30 PM [REPLY](#)



**killerwolf** says:

you could glue or atatch the plastic to the rubber band

Apr 11, 2009. 9:05 AM [REPLY](#)



**linkmaster03** says:

Haha, cool idea. I'm definitely going to do this!

Apr 11, 2009. 7:32 AM [REPLY](#)

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