

Cipher Disk

This tool was originally created by Leon Battista Alberti to encipher and decipher secret messages. Though the alphabet on the disk to the right differs from the original disk, the disks function similarly. The outer ring refers to the plain text, while the inner ring references the cipher text. The letters align to create the key. The key number refers to the alignment of the letters and differs based on the position of the letters on the inner ring. To determine the key, turn the inner ring counter clockwise and count the number of letter positions to the destination letter.

- When A in the outer circle is aligned with A in the inner circle, the key equals 0.
- When A in the outer circle is aligned with B in the inner circle, the key equals 1.
- When A in the outer circle is aligned with C in the inner circle, the key equals 2.

Directions for Assembly

- Cut around the dashed outer edge of each circle.
- Place the smaller circle on top of the larger circle.
- Poke a brad through the middle of the circles.
- Spread the ends of the brad on the back side.

