

This early 'cryptographic' machine, credited to general Aeneas Tacticus from the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, consists of a single disc 3-6inches (10-15cm) in diameter. Around the edge of this disc were holes that correspond to the letters of the alphabet. In the central area of the disc you will find two additional holes, one in the center and one that is used as a key to point to the first letter of the sequence. A string is tied from the center hole through each letter in the given message. A dowbleth, sequence of two identical letters, is indicated by marking the target letter and then passing the string through the center hole. To 'decrypt' the message simply remove the string to reconstruct the message backwards. The size of the tool made it easy to transport. The use of a simple string made the tool easy to use and to destroy should danger be imminent.

