

PAMPHLET NO.6 FOR SMHAF

*A Short History  
of Tin Foil*

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# From Tin to Aluminum: The History of Tin Foil

“While most people are more than happy to refer to aluminum foil as tin foil, in reality, they are two vastly different materials. However, the story of aluminum foil is certainly incomplete without briefly discussing the history of tin foil.



**Clean can well and soak off label**



**Cut off both ends and flatten**



**Tuck cut-off ends in can**

**Save in separate containers and give to an authorized collector**



## WIN WITH TIN

WIN COLLECTION STAMP  
From ManyEats.com

*The following text and images are, unless otherwise stated, by Gerard Paul (prolific eater, and founder of manyeats) published September 11th 2020 on his website: <https://manyeats.com/history-of-aluminum-foil/> (accessed 26th September 2023).*

## Historical Usage of Tin Foil

Tin foil's history goes back a bit longer than aluminum

foil's. Tin is a soft metal, just like aluminum. The use of tin and tin foil in various capacities dates to the late 18th century.

Tin foil didn't fall out of common usage in the United States until World War II. Tin is rarer than aluminum, and nearly all tin was imported into the United States at the time (or recycled). The US's War Production Board even mandated larger towns had a tin collection process in place at the time. Aluminum is abundant, doesn't leave as much of a taste signature in food, and is roughly otherwise equivalent. A Win-win! But still – let's look at a few notable and interesting uses of tin foil.

## **Edison's Recordings**

Thomas Edison used tin foil wrapped around a cylinder to create the first recording device for a phonograph. This worked far better than his previous material: paraffined paper. The tin foil was thin enough and sensitive enough to make the necessary indents during the recording process.

## **Usage in Dentistry**

Another surprising application of tin foil was its use in dentistry. It was used as filling material as early as 1783, and there's historical evidence from a book by H. Ambler from 1897. The benefit? The flexible nature of tin foil allowed it to be reshaped to take the space between the cavity and act as the ideal filling material during this era.

## Usage in Food and Food Packaging

Tin entered food packaging during the 19th century replacing the mason jar, and it was extensively used until the mid-20th century when aluminum foil took over.

While tin foil was popular, the most common relic of the time is the still-in-the-lexicon tin can.

Ultimately, it was a good swap. Food wrapped in tin foil or packed in tin cans tended to take on a “tinny” taste. For tin cans, especially, manufacturers added more and more complicated sealing and coating procedures. Aluminum avoids those downsides.

## Aluminum Foils: An Interesting Story, and Some Curious Questions

### What’s the deal with tin foil hats?

The rise of tin foil hats in connection to conspiracy theories added to the demise of the material. As tin is an okay electrical conductor and weakly magnetic, some believe it can stop “mind-reading” waves from escaping or “mind-controlling” waves from getting to your brain.

A 2005 MIT study tested tin’s successor aluminum’s ability to block radio waves and found that for some frequencies aluminum amplified the waves(!). Frequencies between 1.2 GHz and 1.4 GHz showed amplification in their tests – spectrum currently allocated primarily to research, GPS, and mobile frequencies.

It makes you think! (Also, I haven’t seen a study on tin-based hats yet... what are they hiding?).”

>>> You have to wonder whether the MIT study was

conducted in the spirit of the foil, I mean the three hats they tried were called the 'classical' the 'fez' and the 'centurion' - I can feel the smirk from here... maybe they are of a similar ilk to Juliet Huxley who first wrote about foil hats' protection from mind-control in *The Tissue-Culture King* back in 1927 (a famed eugenicist, and advocate of the unscientific nature of the occult, but also as it happens, probably bipolar).

*ps. if you interested in the spiritual underpinnings of anarchism and its occult features please read Erica Lagalisse - [www.lagalisse.net](http://www.lagalisse.net)*

Roisin Kiberd in her article for vice describes the current climate:

“The condition, known as electromagnetic sensitivity, has been subject to much off-screen debate, with critics viewing it alternately as a genuine intolerance to technology, or as an elaborate neo-Luddite hoax.

**SAVE YOUR CANS**  
**Help pass the Ammunition**

MISCELLANEOUS BARCLAY USNR

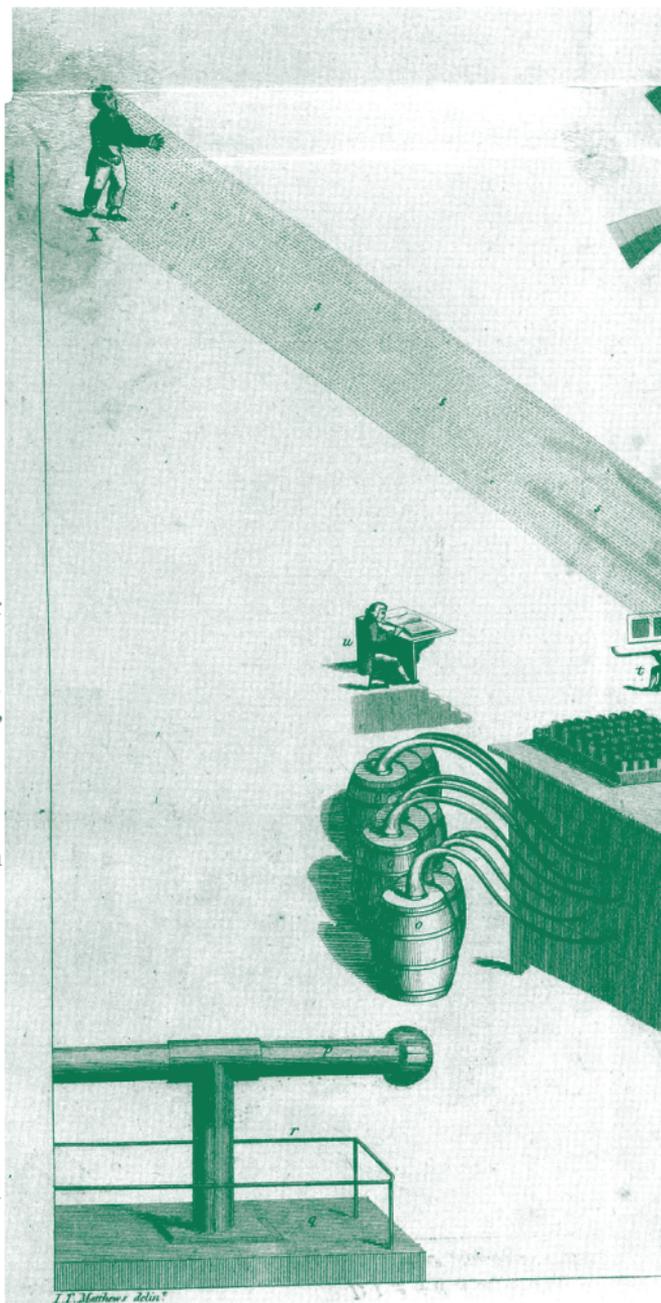
**PREPARE YOUR TIN CANS  
FOR WAR**

- 1 REMOVE TOPS AND BOTTOMS
- 2 TAKE OFF PAPER LABELS
- 3 WASH THOROUGHLY
- 4 FLATTEN FIRMLY

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Whole towns of “electrosensitives” have sprung up in America free from phone signals and wifi, with products such as electromagnetic frequency blocking curtains and microwave absorber sheets are sold—ironically—online. Homespun websites offer tips for “electromagnetic victims” in increasingly bombastic language, listing “V2K” (“voice to skull”) mind control and even alien abduction among the risks presented by letting electromagnetic waves permeate the brain.

Most often made from aluminium foil rather than actual tin, the tin foil hat







scientist called Hascombe lost in a jungle. Captured by the local tribe, Hascombe wins their favour through his “magical” ability to grow tissue samples from their king, Bugala.

What ensues is as dystopian and gleefully ghoulish as any of the more famous Huxley’s work. Kept under house arrest, Hascombe

becomes a Daedalus figure forced to lend his talents to a corrupt regime. But proximity to power goes to his head, and Hascombe turns his “perverted intellectual ambitions” to mass mind control.

Eventually the scientist hypnotizes the king and escapes wearing a “cap of metal foil” which is “relatively impervious to the telepathic effect.” But he is overpowered the moment he removes it. The narrator laments:

I begged and implored him to use his reason, to stick to his decision, and to come on. How I regretted that, in our desire to discard all useless weight, we had left behind our metal telepathy-proof head coverings!

The plot ends on a question that would do any conspiracy theorist proud, asking the reader whether they’re one of “those who labor because they like power, or because they want to find the truth about how things work.”