

This zine was put together to share some stories of simple sabotage that have been both inspiring and helpful, and give some detailed (but never complete) notes on a fun, easy and effective way to fuck shit up. The stories are shared in chronological order, because we loved seeing how, when viewed together, reports from anarchists in one city could spark action across the country one month later. Hope you enjoy it too.

This zine is first a lesson in simple sabotage, but we also hope it demonstrates the potential of an anarchic culture of communiques, a tradition that we'd like to see strengthened among anarchists and criminals in the so-called United States.



“Sabotage of ATMs, fare machines and parking meters” is a zine compiled by the Catch Us If You Can Collective. Hit us up at CantCatchUs@RiseUp.net



Digital copies of this zine for printing/distribution and online reading can be found at:
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**of ATMs, fare machines and
parking meters**



**A COLLECTION OF RELEVANT
GUIDES, REPORTBACKS,
AND COMMUNIQUE**

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Distro note:

You can distribute this zine with small bags of superglue minis and halved gift cards to make its lessons all the easier to put into practice.

Packs of small single-use super glue bottles and stacks of gift cards can be easily stolen in large amounts from almost any big box store.

You may have received this zine with glue and gift cards: put them to use! There are very few things more satisfying than some good simple sabotage.

Have fun, enjoy yourself, and don't get caught!

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Why: If you've picked up this zine, you probably don't need to be convinced why banks suck or transportation should be free. But why this method in particular?

Disabling shit with cards and super glue is incredibly easy and cheap, and cheaper still if the materials are stolen. Also, a low-key direct action like this is perfect for building familiarity and trust with friends and comrades, which are important bonds to have when taking riskier or more stressful action together, like at a militant street demo. And if you're by yourself, undertaking actions like these gives you the confidence that you can fuck shit up and get away with it easily, and that feels satisfying as fuck.

Dressing up: Dress to be anonymous and unnoticed. COVID-19 has completely normalized covering up your face, and any cold weather does the same. Cover your face (**including forehead**), your hair, and any tattoos. Be plain. No logos, nothing unique. Don't wear a bunch of black or otherwise look like the Hollywood depiction of an anarchist/criminal; we've seen too many baby anarchists make that mistake. It just gets you noticed. Gloves: Gloves are important to avoid fingerprints. For this action, you want gloves that are thin and disposable, to keep fine motor control and not worry about getting glue on your gloves (you will). Rubber/latex gloves can trap fingerprints inside, so cotton gloves are best if you have them, but if you use rubber/latex be careful about where and how you dispose of them.

Cameras: All these machines will likely be in areas with video surveillance, especially at banks and transit stations. Almost every surveillance camera is overhead. Know where they are. If it won't look strange (like it would on a sunny day), an umbrella is perfect to keep you hidden from their prying eyes. Be aware that ATMs can have front-facing cameras. Cameras can be painted over or broken if you like, but painting or smashing shit makes the action a lot less low-key.

Leave your phone at home. You don't need it. That includes "burners".

Familiarize yourself with the area. Where are nearby cops? Security?

Superglue and cards are subtle. Smashing shit isn't. Be careful and intentional when combining different kinds of action. Have fun!!!

A Troublemaker's Notes

The machines: The main targets of these actions against ATMs, fare machines and parking meters are the card slots, as that's what the combination of a halved gift card and superglue is best suited to disable. For ATMs, as long as the card slot is jammed, the ATM will be pretty much unusable. For parking meters and fare machines, a blocked card slot will do a lot to prevent its use, but fare (or parking) can still be paid in cash or coin. Coin slots can be blocked with a piece of a gift card (or **non-corrugated** cardboard) that's been cut to about 1 inch, glued, and pushed in completely. Cash slots can be disabled similarly to a card slot, but tend to be narrower, and you might find that what fits into a debit/credit card slot won't fit into the cash one. Any sort of slot can be sabotaged with nothing but superglue, but this seems less effective than when combined with something glued inside. The locks to open up the machine for its owner to add/remove money can also be filled with glue.

Many of these machines tend to have **screens** themselves or nearby, and these can be smashed. In the experience of some troublemakers (mostly in Portland), the screens of the small machines where you're asked to tap a transit card or phone before boarding a train shatter quickly and quietly from a solid strike with a handheld scribe or center punch. With a sharp, pinpoint force, breaking those doesn't require as much effort. (This is similar to car windows.) In contrast, the screens of ATMs, the ticket dispensers for the train, and our local (PDX) parking meters tend to require a lot more force to break, and so fucking them up is a louder and more noticeable process. Screens on ATMs, ticket dispensers and parking meters have been broken with bats and larger crowbars and hammers, often taking multiple hits before breaking. For those, you want something you can swing hard.

This might not hold true in all places, as different manufacturers may use different materials, and the only way to know for yourself is to try.



Philly Black December ATM attacks

December 2017



In celebration of Black December some anarchists in Philly decided to take a leisurely winter stroll downtown and put a stall in the commerce-shit-capitalism of nearly every ATM in the financial heart of the city.

We took non-corrugated cardboard cut down to the width and half the length of an ATM card with super-glue applied to one side and jammed them into the card slot of the machine or the card slot for the entry to the vestibule. It was surprisingly easy to do and more than 50 targets got got!

This attack was super low key! All we needed was to dress in the normal winter attire for a below freezing night (faces covered, gloves etc.), wipe down our tools, and walk around with the assured confidence of boring yuppies. This time of year has prime weather for looking unassuming and concealing your identity while carrying out all kinds of illegal activities, so don't be afraid to try this at home! We felt super chill and productive!

This attack was carried out with the memory of Scout Schultz and Alexis Grigoropoulos on our minds and is dedicated to all those resisting state repression.

For the death of capital and reclamation of our lives!

Money is death sabotage is fun!

Let us light up these dark winter nights with a big fuck you to you know who!

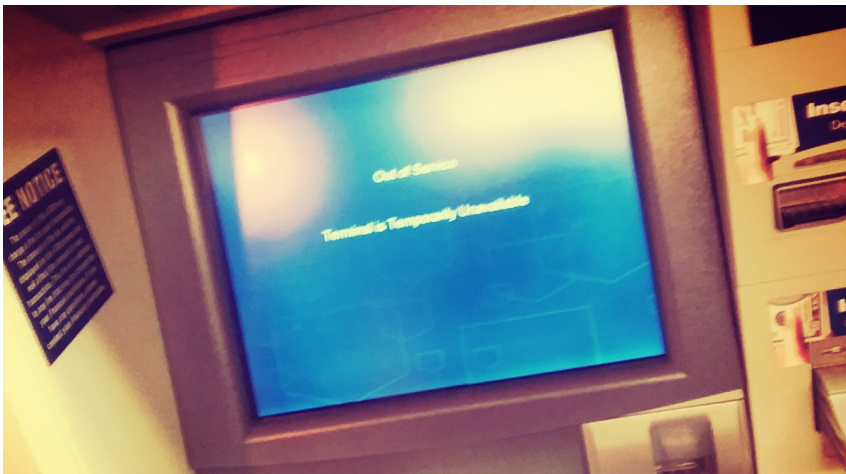
May the burning flames of anarchy warm us this winter & on & on

Happy Black December y'all

phlanticap.noblogs.org/atm-attacks

Striking Back Against the Banks in Portland

January 2018



In solidarity with our comrades in Philadelphia and in solidarity with all our comrades battling the State, we have started off 2018 with the same guerrilla tactics perfected throughout 2017.

Attack in Solidarity with Calls for an Autonomous May Day

April 2020



In the earliest hours of the morning of April 23rd, multiple fare machines, surveillance cameras, ATMs, and luxury cars were attacked and sabotaged when an autonomous anarchist in so-called Portland fought back against State and capital in solidarity with the calls for action in celebration of May Day.

Superglue and (not corrugated) cardboard were used to sabotage ATMs and fare machines and a small hand tool used to shatter their screens, along with the lenses of surveillance cameras and the windows of the cars that the capitalists use to flaunt their wealth in the face of those they exploit.

One individual found freedom and power in the night's attack, and challenges all anarchists, autonomists, and insurrectionists to soon do the same. Take the night for yourself and attack, break their machines, shatter their wealth, slash their tires. Attack, and remind them of our presence.

With love and with rage,
Go Fuck Shit Up!!!

pugetsoundanarchists.org/attack-in-solidarity-with-calls-for-an-autonomous-may-day

Fare Distribution Machines Disabled in Montreal Metro

December 2019



Over the past several days, motivated by an international call for transit fare strikes, the fare distribution machines in several metro stations were disabled by blocking the debit/credit card readers and coin slots.

The STM is continually hiking fares and deploying squads of wannabe-cop “inspectors” to harass, fine, and assault people over \$3.50. Currently, the STM is even seeking to give its inspectors expanded powers to detain and arrest people and access police databases. Every effort to maintain and expand policing of people’s movements deserves to be met with resistance. Fortunately, there is no shortage of inspiration from around the world, above all the ongoing revolt in Chile.

These actions were experiments with some simple, effective, and fairly discreet means of sabotaging fare collection and enforcement. At this point in time, the method that gives us the most confidence is to apply super glue to both sides of a random inactivated gift card and insert it fully in the debit/credit card slot and put more super glue in the coin slot after causing it to open by operating the machine as though you want to pay for a ticket with cash. We hope this technique can be reproduced widely alongside other tactics for taking these machines out of service.

Live free, ride free.

mtlcounterinfo.org/fare-distribution-machines-disabled-in-montreal-metro

We are no longer willing to wait for some great spark to cause the Revolution, nor can we afford to wait as our mental health depreciates with each new bit of bad news about our dying planet and all these warring nations fighting over blood and oil. Instead, we will turn every little act into an act of rebellion and refuse to submit to the State any longer.

Tonight, we borrowed from our comrades in Philly and went out to jam up some bank ATMs. One could not find a better representative of the capitalist machine we seek to dismantle than the very cog which keeps the whole thing afloat, for without banks the State would have no way of determining “value” and stacking debt onto the backs of the impoverished while enriching the lucky few ad nauseam.

We attempted first to lodge rectangles of non-corrugated cardboard into the slots on the ATMs but found that the machines wouldn’t accept our counterfeits. In a split-second decision, we ransacked the closest big box grocery store for all the Visa gift cards we could stuff into our pockets. We cut off about a third of these, so as to make them that much harder to fish out of the machines, and we proceeded to gallivant across Portland jamming every machine we came across. In total we managed to wreck almost 20 ATMs, although we shall have to see how long it takes the banks to repair them. This tactic could and should be implemented all winter long and could even likely be performed in broad daylight without catching so much as a second look. In truth, humans are so programmed not to notice things anymore that even the cops that passed us by periodically didn’t so much as slow down or look over while passing.

In summary, cardboard works if you really work it but gift cards are easy to steal (since they must be loaded by the clerk before using, anybody who noticed probably thought we were the dumbest shoplifter ever), they easily slip into the machine, and nobody questions a person walking up to an ATM with a card in hand. We felt like the action was a huge success and we will definitely be adding it to our playbook. While our actions will not make the State crumble tomorrow, they allow us a bit of sanity and self-confidence which has been stolen from us. They remind us that the State is not as all-knowing or all-powerful as it would like you to believe. Most

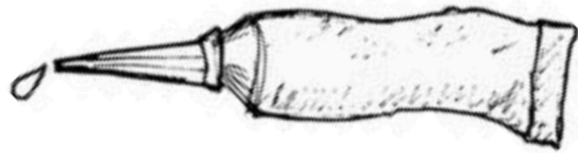
importantly, these low-risk actions help us form stronger bonds with each other for when the actions we must take are no longer low risk and the consequences may be dire.

Solidarity and Respect

itsgoingdown.org/striking-back-banks-portland

Sabotage Against Philly Bank Profiting off of Private Prisons

July 2018



We fucked up ATM's at 3 Wells Fargo banks in Philadelphia using half-sized credit cards and super glue. We chose this bank franchise because it profits from migrant imprisonment, but we know they all have it coming.

Shoutout to the Indonesian Anarchists facing state repression! Solidarity with other anarchists fighting more of the same, and those that oppose the totality of the borders.

—The Rainy Day Glues

itsgoingdown.org/philadelphia-sabotage-against-bank-profiting-off-private-prisons

Sabotage Against Asheville Bank Investing in ICE

July 2019



In the early hours of the morning of July 11th in so-called Asheville, NC, a PNC bank branch ATM had its card slot super-glued shut and its screen defaced. This is a small gesture taken in response to the call for a week of action against ICE profiteers. The only “crisis at the border” is the crisis of sickening trauma and deadly violence imposed on black and brown folks by the State where an imaginary line has been drawn. The real-life consequences of that line, however, are very real...

Solidarity to those who made this call, those who put in the time and work to support our immigrant brother and sisters, and those who act out against the state and the violence it both perpetrates and profits from.

Fuck borders and fuck all those who profit from their violence.

—An anarchist

itsgoingdown.org/sabotage-asheville-bank