

# METAL STAMPING

## MATERIALS:

- Metal to stamp into – aluminium, brass, copper, silver, gold
- Permanent ink or patina solution

## TOOLS

- Snips or piercing saw
- Jobbing hammer and anvil
- Steel punches
- Files
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Emery paper
- Metal polish



1. Decide on your stamped design, text or pattern and scribble it out in on paper to decide on placing and location. Once you have stamped a punch into the metal it can't be removed so get an idea of how you would like it to look before you start.
2. Work on a piece of metal slightly larger than your intended final size – it can be trimmed down after you have stamped it.
3. You can mark the centre of the metal, draw lines to follow or even mark out the entire design before you start. It depends how precise you want the finished piece to be. Use pencil or marker pen – don't scribe the marks though, it will leave a lot of work to remove the scribe lines.
4. Work out where to start stamping. I often start from the centre of my design or text and work outwards. This is helpful in centring the design on the metal. Think about the placing of any holes, rivets or connecting elements before you start. Try to incorporate these into the design.
5. Place the metal on a steel block or anvil. Place the stamp on top of the metal. Use a hammer to tap the punch into the metal. As you tap the punch, rotate it to ensure all the stamp design comes into contact with the metal. If you get only a partial impression it can be very tricky to relocate it.
6. To make sure the stamp is the right way up, hold the stamp with your thumb at the bottom of the letter. Once you turn it over and hold it to the metal the bottom of the letter should be closest to you and it should stamp the right way up. If you are working on a final piece, have a piece of scrap metal or blu tac next to you to test before you stamp.
7. Aim to get your stamping as even as possible. A little bit of variation and movement gives it a hand stamped character so don't worry if it's not perfect.
8. When you are happy with your design, trim away any excess metal and use files and emery paper to smooth the edges.

9. To bring out the stamping, rub permanent ink or patina solution into the design. Make sure it gets into all the stamped impressions. Let the ink dry and use emery paper to rub away the surface of the metal. The ink will remain in the stamped areas.

8. Use metal polish to shine up the surface.