

# Metal Effects

by Cheryl Darrow



# Tools Of The Trade

## TOOLS

The **stylax** tools and Teflon tip tools are used to create the impression.

The **refiners** will sharpen the edge of the impression.

The **detailer** tool is used for adding fine lines to the impression.

The **cutting** tool is used on a cutting mat to cut the edges of the metal, and useful for opening in the center of the design embossed in metal.

## ERASERS

There are three sizes of **erasers** with five different tips. Erasers are also used as stylax tools for creating an impression

and can be used as refiners. They are also used to smooth out and remove impression mistakes in all types of metal.

## SURFACES

All of the tools listed here work the best on a smooth or foam surface.

The **acrylic mat** is a must for providing a smooth surface to refine or erase mistakes. The **thick foam mat** gives the **Ball & Cups** a deeper impression, while the **thin foam mat** is great for using with **Decorative Wheels** and embossing.

Thin Foam Mat  
Thick Foam Mat

Acrylic Mat



Patterned Molds

Embossed Metal Sample

## MOLDS

Repetitive metal embossing is a snap with patterned **Molds**.

**Molds** can be used with polymer clay, PMC, fun foam, and pencil rubbings.

## BALL & CUPS

Create dimensional dome shapes with ease.

**Paper Stumps** are used to puff and smooth out metal.

Ball & Cups

Hourglass

Large

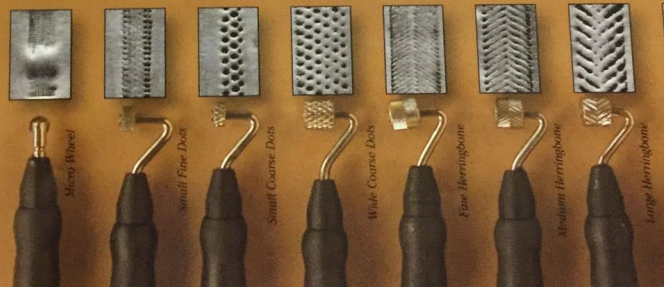
Medium

Small

Large Brass Brush

Paper Stamp

Add dimension quickly with **Decorative Wheels** by rolling out impressions in metal, clay or cardstock. Smooth and define designs with the **Black Roller**. For a brushed metal finish use the **Brass Brush** in a circular motion.



Micro Wheel

Small Fine Dash

Small Coarse Dash

Wide Coarse Dash

Fine Herringbone

Medium Herringbone

Large Herringbone

## Metals

Shown here are the various metals that are used in Metal Effects. They are brass, aluminum, copper, pewter, art metal foils, metal tape and decorative foiling tape for stained glass.

Metal thickness is measured by gauge. The lower the number gauge, the thicker the metal. The optimum embossing gauge is 36-38. All of the metals used in this book were in this range.

Art metals are a light gauge aluminum with a color coating on one side. They are generally on the thinner side and can be as thin as paper. The coating on these metals can be sanded off, which can create a unique look after it's been embossed. Metal tape and copper or silver soldering tapes have an adhesive on one side and can be decorated with the wheels and other tools shown on page 4.

Pewter and tin have a warmer color to them than aluminum, and are softer to use than the other metals. However, they contain Lead, so care should be taken when working with them. Wash hands thoroughly before and after working with metals. Never eat and emboss at the same time.

## Supplies

Most of the supplies shown here have been used throughout this book and should be a part of your basic supply kit:

- Stencils
- Decorative Punches
- Acrylic Paints
- Non-Porous Ink Pads
- The Ultimate Adhesive
- Lightweight Spackle
- Paintbrushes
- Wax Paper
- Scissors
- Rubber Stamps
- Paper Towels





# Let's Talk Design

If you happen to have the ability to free hand a design or letter a poem, fantastic! Designs can also be created using stencils, rubber stamps, computer-generated art or lettering, and clip art books. Almost any drawing, sketch or photo can be translated into metal. I suggest starting out with a simple line drawing with minimal detail until you get used to the tools.



*The letter shown was drawn from a Deja View template. "Create" was hand lettered within a 1/4" border.*

*About © Copyright  
Not wanting to go into legal detail on such issues, I will say that it is crucial that any design that you embark upon reproducing be copyright free. Laws vary greatly, so do your homework, especially if you plan to sell a piece.*



*Copy or print a mirror image of designs that are lettering. This will read backwards and enable you to emboss your lettering. Any lettering seen in this book with an embossed look was created with a mirror image.*

## TIPS

- ◆ If a smaller or larger design is needed, simply change the size on a copier.
- ◆ Dig out all those templates, rubber stamps and stencils in your drawers and give them new life with Metal Effects.
- ◆ It is best to copy the designs on vellum when possible. Vellum can withstand the pressure of your stylus several times.

# Let's Get Started



David Davies, Designer

To get started, your basic tool kit for metal embossing should include:

Teflon & Stylus tool	Cutting Mat
Refiner	Acrylic Mat
Cutter	Foam Mats - Thick and Thin
Various Decorative Wheels	Acrylic Paint
Various Ball & Caps	Crafter's Pick The Ultimate Glue
Paper Shims	Craft Tape Sheets
Black Roller	Lightweight Spackle
Scissors	1" Paintbrush
Round Dowel	Various templates, patterns or computer-generated text
Wax Paper	

**Note:** There is no right or wrong side to your design unless you are embossing words. You must decide which look you want on the front, either Embossed or Debossed. It's all a judgment call, so if you want your design to have a heavy embossed look, then most of the design will be worked on top. (Debossed image)

↑  
Embossed Line

↓  
Debossed Line



Place a piece of metal, cut larger than the design on acrylic mat and flatten with the black roller tool.



Tape design to the metal and place on top of thin foam mat. When working on the foam mat, always have the acrylic mat under it. Using the Teflon tip tool, trace the pattern and word on the metal.



Now to refine the design. Flip the metal over to the front, remove foam mat and using the refiner tool, run it along the outside edge only of the design. This will create a crisp line on the outside of the design.

Metal Effects

# Embellishing



Divide up the letter into sections and start the design. Use a grid design and this will give a nice embossed edge on the front of the metal.



**Fig 1** - Use the ball end of the Ball & Cup to create "balls" on the design. The thick mat must be used under the metal.

**Fig 2** - Remove mat and flip metal to the front. Place metal on the acrylic mat. Place the cup end of the Ball & Cup tool and "cup" the ball to refine around the ball for a crisp edge.



Fill in sections using the Teflon tip tool and create doodles, squiggles or swirls.



Using the micro wheel, fill in the grid on the front with super fine lines.



Refine around each letter and the border. Use the Teflon tip tool to refine around small spaces in lettering. For an added finish, decorate the edge of the metal with any of the decorative wheels.



For extra texture use the brass brush in a circular motion and give the metal a brushed finish.