

Metal Stamping using punches

This technique allows you to imprint intricate designs; patterns, text and numbers onto various metals, resulting in lots of personalised and unique jewellery.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Your metal blank (flat surfaces are best to stamp onto, you can gently form and solder pieces after stamping)
- Punches, there are several companies, ImpressArt have a large range
- A copper or brass mallet
- steel plate, masking tape (stamp straight tape/washi tape), permanent marker pen
- To oxidise: Liver of sulphur, bicarbonate of soda, hot water, pumice

Brass mallets are used for striking steel tools. When used with stamping tools, a brass mallet prevents unwanted movement because it has less reverberation than steel hammers.



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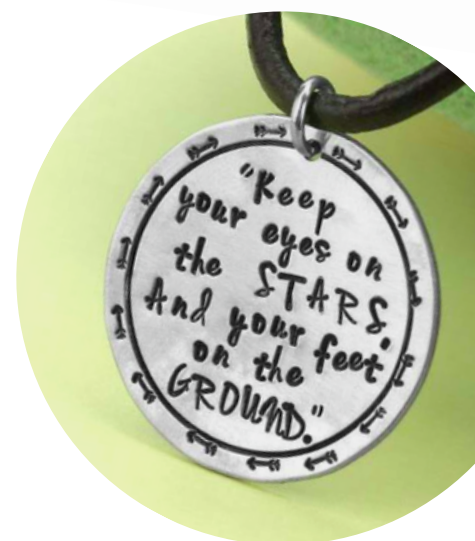
[Name my Jewellery](#)

HOW TO STAMP METAL

1. Select a flat steel surface, the top of a desktop anvil or a steel block/plate that is supported by a sandbag. The intention is to reduce any movement and therefore risk of a botched job.
2. Secure your metal (try experimenting with annealed or not) on the block using tape, without covering too much of the metal.
3. Once the metal is secured, use a ruler and a permanent pen to mark the positions of where you'd like the text or patterns to be.
4. Select your stamps and make sure they are all in the right place, facing the correct direction (*you could mark your stamps to tell you the correct way round - the punch mark (letter etc) on the edge facing you as you hold it*). You could also have a piece of aluminium set up to check the positioning and orientation before stamping your actual piece.
5. Using your marks as a guideline, line up the stamp to the mark and give a gentle initial straight down blow with the copper/brass mallet to create a guide for further strikes.
6. Personally, I like to create the first mark and then slightly tilt the stamp and strike more gently rotating in a clockwise motion to make sure that all areas have been caught. The design does not move but the angle of the punch rotates.
7. To make the mark show more clearly, I would suggest using liver of sulphur to blacken the work (see worksheet) and then polish the surface to create a contrast between shiny silver and blackened mark. Lots of resources online say to do this with a permanent marker, however I'm oldskool and prefer to add a patina.



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FURTHER INFORMATION:
www.creativetherapy.space/resources

[Video tutorial for stamping letters](#)

[Ehow - how to stamp letters on to metal](#)



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