

# TEXTURES ON METAL

## Hammering | Roll-Printing | Stamping

### Annealing

Is a step necessary to prepare the metal for texture. Annealing reduces stress within the crystalline structure of the metal by creating vacancies and allows the metal to become malleable. For copper, heat to a medium red and quench when the redness disappears. **Work-hardening** restructures the crystals into alignment.

### Planishing

Comes from the word *planus*, meaning to flatten or level. Using a hammer to planish results in smoothing, toughening and polishing of metal.

### References

Longhi, Helen and Cynthia Eid. 2013. *Creative Metal Forming*. Brynmorgen Press.

McCreight, Tim. 1991. *The Complete Metalsmith*. Davis Publications: Worcester, Mass.



Basic shapes of steel hammers. From left to right: Forging, raising, forming, planishing and ball peen.

## Hammer Faces

“The shape of the hammer face determines the effect of the blow. Rounded hammer faces move the metal in all directions; rectangular hammer faces move the metal primarily in two directions perpendicular to the long axis of the hammer face. To understand how this works, use your hand to simulate hammering. Imagine a lump of clay and in your mind's eye, pound on it with a rounded fist. Notice that the clay compresses under the blow and spreads in all directions. Now chop the clay with the edge of your hand and you can visualize how the clay spreads in two directions.” (Longhi, 2013.)

### Stamping

Stamps are small steel rods used with a hammer to impress a pattern or texture into a metal. Our workshop utilizes letter



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- a photo of your completed project
- a sentence or two that summarizes your experience (to possibly be published on metalledwith.com)
- suggestions for future workshops

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stamps, but a variety of patterns and textures can be found.

Chasing is like an advanced level of stamping by moving the tool along the surface of the metal to create lines. The end result looks like engraving, but is not.

## Roll Printing

Roll printing is a technique that impresses a pattern into metal. The rolling mill exerts force with two hardened steel cylinders. A sandwich made of 1. *Brass sheet*, 2. *Texturing material*, 3. *Metal to be textured* is passed through the rolling mill with an even and smooth exertion on the crank of the mill.



This pattern is embossed, creating the opposite of the texturing material on the metal. Great texturing materials include: paper (with designs cut), lace, screen, burlap, string. When using paper, keep in mind that designs made be used only once as the force of the mill can easily destroy the paper. Roll printing allows for designs that are not easily accomplished with other texturing tools.

## Notes