

# Aluminum Foil Embossed Ornament

## Aluminum Foil Embossed Ornament by Michelle East

[www.CreateArtwithME.com](http://www.CreateArtwithME.com)

**Blog Page with Pictures & Videos of Project:**

<http://createartwithme.com/2012/12/12/aluminum-foil-embossing-repousse-ornament/>

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Or2fj3lmoEY>



## Foil Embossed Ornament- Low Relief Design

*This is called tooling when working with soft metals.*

### Tools/ Supplies

- [Sheets of metal- Crafter's grade 36 gauge Aluminum](#). Also comes in copper & dual sided.
- Metal Embossing or **Tooling Tools**- DickBlick.com -[Ten Seconds Metal Tooling Tools](#)
- **Foam Sheets** to cushion the surface
- **Scissors**
- **Tape**
- **Glue or glitter glue** for finishing the edges
- **Parchment paper**
- Optional rigid [Fiskar's Texture Plates](#) (Amazon) –not good for small areas
- **16-18 gauge Galvanized Wire**
- **Hole punch**

### Designing the Ornament

#### Make your own design:

1. Fold a piece of paper in half
2. Draw design for ½ of the ornament-symmetrical
3. Cut out paper template with scissors
4. Open up the paper & draw your basic design out on the template

### Transferring the Design:

1. Cut out a sheet of metal a little larger than your design.
2. Tape all the edges so you won't get cut while working on it.
3. Place template on top of metal & tape it into place.
4. Use a sharpie to trace around the outside parameter of the ornament. You can get the sharpie off later by using rubbing alcohol.
5. Place metal on the foam sheet & trace all your lines with a dull pencil or one of the ball metal tools.
6. Flip your metal over to check if you got all your design.

## **Embossing the Ornament**

- Both techniques are used together to create a finished piece
- These techniques utilize the **plasticity** of the metal by pushing and stretching the metal to achieved desired designs. It is not pushed to the extent that the metal breaks.

### **Metal Embossing uses 2 main techniques:**

1. **Repousse-** French Word that Means “to push up”- this method is done on the **back of the metal** pushing it forward (with harder metal it is done with a hammer & tools)
  - a. **Demo Repousse with** tools & texture plates
2. **Chasing-** the technique of sinking the metal from the front (intaglio process). **Work from the front of the metal**, pushing down
  - a. **Demo Chasing** with tools & texture plates

## **Cutting out Ornament**

BE VERY CAREFUL cutting out the ornament, the edges are extremely sharp! You can wear gloves to prevent cutting yourself.

## **Adding Color**

- Use permanent markers like Sharpies or Bic brands.
- Limit to 3-4 colors
- Use a color scheme-Analogous, split complementary
- *Tip:* If you make a mistake just dip a Q-Tip in rubbing alcohol & rub. The color will lift off!

## **Glue Edges**

1. Place ornament as flat as possible on a sheet of parchment paper.
2. Squirt a continuous line of glue on the outer edge of the ornament. Do this ALL THE WAY around the ornament.
3. Let dry for 5+ hours (dry time depends on the glue)

## **The Hanger**

1. Use 16-18 gauge wire from home improvement store cut about 7” in length.
2. Curl into a swirly shape with needle nose pliers. Do a big swirl on the top & just one loop where the hole will go.
3. Use a hole punch to put a hole for the hanger.