Aluminum Foil Embossed Ornament by Michelle East

www.CreateArtwithME.com

Blog Page with Pictures & Videos of Project:
http://createartwithme.com/2012/12/12/aluminum-foil-embossing-repousse-ornament/
Videos
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Or2f3ImoEY

Foil Embossed Ornament- Low Relief Design
This is called tooling when working with soft metals.

Tools/ Supplies
- Sheets of metal- Crafters 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 Fishers 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. **Repoussé**- 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 Repoussé 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 plyers. 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.